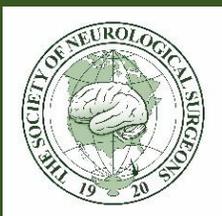


ISSUE

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April 2020

'the newsletter that wasn't'



The Society of Neurological Surgeons

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Message from the president



Karin Muraszko, MD

Intentionally left blank as we were in the process of writing when COVID began.....

SNS Website Committee By Sepideh Amin- Hanjani, MD

As a new ad hoc committee, we were formally charged in late 2017 to update and help administer the Society's website. The first task was populating the Committee with standing members and now includes Sepideh Amin-Hanjani (Chair), Randy Jensen (Program Director Tool Kit editor, Lola Chambless (Toolkit wellness curriculum), Ciaran Powers (Toolkit faculty development), Scott Simon (Web platform consultant), in addition to Stacey Wolfe (Medical Student Committee liaison), Gregory Zipfel (CORE Resident Courses Subcommittee liaison), Michael Lemole (Historian liaison) and Kathy Guzman (ARANS liaison).

First we developed the new PD toolkit which provides vital resources, templates and residency materials for Neurosurgery Program Directors. We then partnered with the CNS to update our user experience and site with the modern up-to-date look and functionality that will best serve our membership, with information in easy-to-navigate and intuitive locations.

The public facing side allows quick links to medical student, resident and fellowship/CAST content. On the member login side, access to the PD toolkit materials and to member account information registration and dues functions. Thanks to our hard-working committee, and Nate Selden and CNS staff for their ongoing efforts!

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering to serve on this group.

Overall, the committee hopes that the updated website provides the content and accessibility to enhance our members' roles in neurosurgical education. We invite you to explore the site at www.societyns.org, and welcome any suggestions or feedback!

SNS Secretary's Report by Nathan Selden, MD, PhD

The 2019-20 year has been a very busy year for SNS. As we approach an historic 100-year anniversary, the world's oldest neurosurgical society has undertaken a complete infrastructure re-organization. The SNS has also re-focused squarely on its mission of residency and fellowship education and academic program leadership and governance.

In September 2019, the SNS moved its administrative infrastructure to two new locations. Membership and meeting services as well as the offices of the SNS treasurer and secretary are housed at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, in Schaumburg, Illinois. Administrator Liz Frale supervises SNS activity in Schaumburg, with help from Lisa O'Brien and other members of the CNS team. The office of the SNS Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training (CAST) is now housed at the American Board of Neurological Surgery in Rochester, Minnesota. CAST Coordinator Linda Kvall-Boynton manages CAST activities with input from Betsy Koehnen and the ABNS administrative team.

We are working to improve our communication through improved websites and this newsletter led by Dr. Sepi Amin-Hanjani and Dr. Julie Pilitsis respectively. On the SNS website (at www.societyns.org) contains listings for these and many other busy committees and activities, the latest update of the Program Director's Toolkit, and both annual meeting and historical archives. New SNS members are encouraged to volunteer for the following working committees:

- Medical student education
- Research
- Resident courses
- Curriculum
- Website

The SNS also continues to coordinate with other key organizations that are involved in resident training. The SNS President convenes regular meetings of these 'One Neurosurgery Summit' organizations, including the ABNS, RRC, AANS, CNS, the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, and the AANS-CNS Washington Committee. Recent topics addressed include:

- Conflict of interest in residency and fellowship training
- Harassment and professional behavior
- Timing of fellowship training
- Maintenance of certification-continuing certification reform
- NINDS funding of neurosurgery research
- A strategic plan for the house of U.S. neurosurgery

The SNS is also the program directors' society for neurological surgery, playing a pivotal role in determining the content and format of residency and fellowship education and representing neurosurgery at the Organization of Program Director Societies (OPDA). Our OPDA representative, Dr. Cormac Maher, is leading neurosurgery's participation in a new ACGME effort to create a national quality and safety curriculum for residency training. The SNS also sponsors the Association of Residency Administrators in Neurological Surgery (ARANS) and convenes a joint meeting of program coordinators and directors prior to the opening reception of the SNS Annual Meeting each year.

All of the SNS officers and Executive Council members are interested in hearing your input regarding the work of the Society and thank you for your ongoing support of our mission. We look forward to seeing you at the 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Philadelphia!



100th Anniversary meeting of the Society of Neurological Surgeons By M. Sean Grady, MD, President Elect

The University of Pennsylvania's Department of Neurosurgery is thrilled to host the 100th Anniversary meeting of the Society of Neurological Surgeons in Philadelphia this year and looks forward to having you visit our historical city. The meeting venue is the Logan Hotel, formerly the Four Seasons, located just off Benjamin Franklin Parkway and squarely in the city's arts and cultural hub. World famous museums such as the Rodin, the Barnes and the Philadelphia Art Museum are all in very close proximity, as is the Franklin Institute. Our nation's origin story is on display in Old City where the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall the Constitution Center, and Elfreth's Alley, our nation's oldest residential street are among many famous places from our history.

The social program starts Saturday night at the Logan with a cocktail reception and light hors d'oeuvres with entertainment by the Neurosurgery Jazz band. On Sunday, dinner is planned at the Mutter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a half mile walk from the Logan (bus

transportation will be available). Monday, we are tentatively scheduling a walk/run down the Franklin Parkway (1 mile each way) to the "Rocky" steps, now a classic destination in Philadelphia. For those of you looking for a longer run or getting on a bike, head for Boathouse Row (bike rentals available) on the Schuylkill where there is a bikeway and running path all the way to Valley Forge (21 miles). Monday night's dinner will be at the National Constitution Center, an appropriate location for this election year and in the heart of Old City. The evening events are business casual attire. Registered partners will have opportunities for major art museum tours, seeing Old City, having lunch at Reading Terminal Market or a scenic walk along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill. The Logan offers a full gym and an outstanding spa. The weather is typically very pleasant in the mid 70' in the day.

We are very excited to welcome you to Philadelphia. Register at <https://www.societyofneurosurgeons.org/2020-annual-meeting>

Plan your travel to catch all the outstanding "Higher Education" offerings

- **Friday** – Program Coordinators meeting at the Sonesta (a 5 minute walk from the Logan)
- **Saturday** is programming targeted to Program Coordinators and Directors but meaningful to all who train residents at the Logan
- **Sunday** a very special local host program (not to be missed) at UPenn Campus and discussion of Ethics and Professionalism
- **Monday morning** focuses on the Culture of Learning and Excellence and will include the historic presidential address at the Logan
- **Monday afternoon** moves onto the topic of Cultural Competence including our Keynote Speaker and the Grossman Award
- **Tuesday morning** is essential listening about Reaching Higher Ground by dealing with and overcoming tragedy
- Make reservations for Saturday dinner with friends at one of Sean's recommendations restaurants

**Centennial Celebration:
History, Mentors, and
our Future**
By Deborah L. Benzil,
MD Chair Scientific
Program Committee

**(Committee members-
Matthew Ewend MD,
Judy Huang MD)**

The Society of Neurological Surgeons was founded 100 years ago-this year's annual meeting will celebrate that heritage while providing outstanding educational program on the theme "Higher Education" chosen by SNS President Dr. Karin Muraszko. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity that every SNS member should attend.

Here are key things to know BEFORE you arrive:

Honor your mentor is a subtext of the whole event.

Please invite your non-SNS member mentors to join you

Encourage your SNS member mentors to attend

Dr. Kim Burchiel, SNS Historian, will unveil over 2 hours of mentor tributes submitted by SNS members

Full tribute will run continuously during Sunday evening gathering at the Mutter Museum

Contact Dr. Kim Burchiel (burchiek@ohsu.edu) for more information. On Honor your mentor.

Join us for these incredible key Speakers!

Stephen Starr, American Restaurateur

Grossman Lecture: Huda Akil, PhD, Gardner C. Quarten Distinguished University Professor of Neurosciences

Sigal Barsade, Joseph Frank Bernstein Professor, Wharton Management

Astronaut and Physician James Bagian, MD

RRC Executive Director Pamela Derstine, PhD

Jody Foster MD and Beulah Trey PhD-specialists in achieving optimal professionalism

Reshma Jagsi, MD, Newman Family Professor of Radiation Oncology

Eve Higginbotham, MD Vice Dean Perlman School of Medicine

ACGME Leader Kevin Weiss, MD

University of Pennsylvania leaders J Larry Jameson, Kevin Mahoney, Peter Quinn and Cynthia Morgan

In Memoriam

Norman C. Hill, MD: 1928-2020

Born and educated in Winnipeg where he was an award-winning medical student at the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1952. During residency at Mayo, he won the American Academy of Neurological Surgery Award. Dr. Hill returned to Winnipeg in 1958 where he became chief of the neurosurgical service and built a modern, subspecialized and interdisciplinary clinical neurosciences program that he led for almost 40 years. He was known for his humor and love of family.

A biased insider's guide to Philadelphia dining by M. Sean Grady, MD, President Elect/Treasurer

The Philly cheesesteak is iconic but the dining scene in Philadelphia has undergone a major renaissance in the past 20 years, leading to the region becoming a dining destination on par with New York, San Francisco and Chicago. You won't be able to get to them all, so choose wisely!

Zahav: The 2019 James Beard award winner for the best restaurant in the US. An Israel menu theme- make reservations early and go for the lamb shoulder and hummus! <http://www.zahavrestaurant.com/>

Philly Cheesesteak: Lots of choices here and these include the roast pork sandwich with broccoli rabe and sharp provolone. The so called inventors are in dispute, but Geno's <https://www.genosteaks.com/> or Pat's <https://www.genosteaks.com/> are very well known. Don't forget to learn how to order "wit or wit out". For my money though, it's <https://www.johnsroastpork.com/>. They're only open Tuesday- Saturday, 9-7 and trust me, go for the roast pork. One/year is about right.

Jean Georges Philadelphia is the latest addition for fine dining with spectacular views from the 59th floor of the new Comcast building, located as part of the new Four Seasons <https://www.fourseasons.com/philadelphia/dining/restaurants/jean-georges-philadelphia/>

Everyone loves Italian! Osteria <https://www.osteriaphilly.com/> does a great job and has some spectacular pizza as well.

If you're looking for the nation's best pizza (as called by Bon Appetit), you're looking for Pizzeria Beddia <https://www.pizzeriabeddia.com/> in Fishtown- our answer to Brooklyn, and a lot less expensive.

Spine Neurosurgeons, heads up: the best steak house in town is either Butcher and Singer <https://butcherandsinger.com/> in Center City or Barclay Prime <https://barclayprime.com/> on Rittenhouse Square. Both of these are part of the Steven Starr empire, he's one of our featured guest speakers at the meeting.

And speaking of Steven Starr, Parc is his classic French bistro on Rittenhouse Square <https://parc-restaurant.com/> and likely his most successful restaurant to date.

And what about the vegan neurosurgeons out there? Vedge <https://www.vedgerestaurant.com/> is in Center City and does astonishing things without any animal products whatsoever!

Finally, there are some great places to get a bite to eat in the Reading Terminal Market <https://readingterminalmarket.org/> just a 15 minute walk from the Logan. You'll need the exercise!



NEW 2019 MEMBER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

Warren W. Boling, MD. is Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery and Residency Program Director at Loma Linda University and Chief of Neurosurgery at Loma Linda University Hospital. He has a dedicated interest in improving the lives of people with epilepsy and in elevating the medical and surgical treatment of neurological diseases in underserved regions of the world. Dr. Boling had developed the first surgery for epilepsy program in East Africa.

Aaron A. Cohen-Gadol, MD. is a professor at the Department of Neurosurgery, director of Neurosurgical Oncology and its fellowship, and Co-director of the Signature Center for Brain and Neurological Tumors at Indiana University. His clinical research interests include neurosurgical operative anatomy using virtual reality and advanced three-dimensional modeling, innovative operative approaches to deep lesions, and intraoperative fluorescence/mass spectroscopy. His basic science research is focused on novel drug therapies for glioblastoma and has published more than 450 publications on that subject.

Curtis E. Doberstein, MD. is director of the Neurosurgery Residency Program and professor of neurosurgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He specializes in the surgical treatment of cerebrovascular disease and skull base tumors and is director of the cerebrovascular and skull base surgery programs at Brown. He has research interests in occlusive cerebrovascular disease and ischemic cell death and has been nominated as a top neurosurgeon by his peers in Rhode Island Monthly for over 20 years.

Chirag D. Gandhi, MD. is Professor of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Radiology and Director of Neurosurgery for the Westchester Medical Center Health Network. His main clinical and research focus is in patients with cerebrovascular disorders, with an interest in cerebral aneurysms, AVMs, and stroke. He has over 150 peer-reviewed publications and has dedicated much of his career to educating medical students, residents, and fellows and focusing on delivery of high-quality neurosurgery through an entire health network.

Anand V. Germanwala, MD. is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Neurological Surgery and Otolaryngology at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and Neurological Surgery Residency Program Director and Chief of Neurological Surgery at the affiliated Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. He specializes in the treatment of patients with brain tumors, especially those involving the cranial base and maintains a federally funded laboratory investigating genetics of skull base tumors. He has been recognized by the CNS as one of ten emerging leaders through the Vanguard Leadership Award in neurosurgery.

Costas G. Hadjipanayis, MD, PhD. is a Professor of Neurosurgery and Oncological Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He also serves as Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Union Square/Beth Israel and as Director of Neurosurgical Oncology for the Mount Sinai Health System in New York City. He is a neurosurgeon-scientist with a focus on novel translational treatments of brain tumors was the first to use Gliolan and perform FGS on a glioma patient in the US in 2011. One of his most notable accomplishments was leading the FDA approval in the US of 5-ALA (Gliolan) for glioma surgery in June of 2017.

Matthew Allan Hunt, MD. Dr. Hunt is an adjunct professor of neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota Department of Neurosurgery and with a practice in the community which includes brain tumor and spine surgery. While at the University he developed NeuroSafe, a department-sponsored national conference dedicated to quality and safety in neurosurgery and worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team treating pet dogs with spontaneous brain tumors as a model of human disease.

Line G. Jacques, MD. is the Vice-chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the School of Medicine at the University of San Francisco, and recently received the John Adams Endowment for Peripheral Nerve and Pain Research. She is known nationally and internationally for her lecturing and teaching and has a keen interest in Neuromodulation and Peripheral Nerve surgery. She is the current Chair of the Division of Spine and Peripheral Nerve (Peripheral Nerve Section) and has numerous publications and book chapters and is a peer reviewer or deputy editor for 13 different journals.

Alexander Arash Khalessi, MD has been with the University of California, San Diego since 2011 where he was charged with developing a destination cerebrovascular service. He led UC San Diego's recognition as the third comprehensive stroke center in the country and ultimate expansion to one of few health systems nationally with two comprehensive stroke centers in both Hillcrest and La Jolla. He is now Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at UC San Diego. Dr. Khalessi directs national and international courses, including the intermediate resident course for the Society of Neurological Surgeons. He has published over 130 peer reviewed papers and monographs with over 175 abstracts and presentations and has served as principal or co-investigator of more than 15 clinical trials and grants. His translational research interests include the impact of neurovascular devices on endothelial cell biology.

NEW 2019 MEMBER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

Ricardo Jorge Komotar, MD is Professor of Neurological Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine where he holds several Directorship positions. His main clinical interests are surgical and radiosurgical (Gamma Knife) treatment of primary and metastatic brain tumors, as well as meningiomas and pituitary lesions. He is an internationally recognized leader in the field of brain tumors and performs nearly 700 procedures for these conditions each year using advanced cutting-edge surgical/radiosurgical techniques. His research interests include clinical trial development and translational neurooncologic investigations designed to pioneer new therapies for brain tumors. He has over 500 peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters, and invited editorials and has received research funding from the NIH as well as other national and regional grants. He is Founder and Director of the Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to benefit brain tumor research. He is also an Emmy nominated physician for his work on the series "Breakthrough Medicine".

N. Scott Litofsky, MD has been on staff at the University of Missouri in Columbia since 2004 where he directs the neuro-oncology, radiosurgery, and skull-base efforts. He is currently Professor and Chief of Neurological Surgery and Director of their Residency Program. He is also the Trauma Program liaison and an ATLS instructor, co-Director of the Neurosciences Center, and Department of Surgery Vice-Chair for Leadership, Professional Development, and Wellness. He has over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, with research focused on brain tumors (quality of life) and traumatic brain injury (anemia and coagulopathy). He is Coordinating Editor of Practical Reviews in Neurosurgery and does peer-review for over 40 different journals. He and his wife successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2018.

William J. Mack, IV, MD is Professor of Neurosurgery, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and a faculty member of the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the University of Southern California where his practice is focused almost exclusively on cerebrovascular disease. He also completed a Master's degree in Clinical and Biomedical Investigation at USC. He is the Director of the Cerebrovascular Laboratory at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute. His overarching academic goal is to examine the effects of inflammation in experimental and clinical models of stroke and cerebrovascular disease. He has been continuously funded by the NIH for his research efforts and has authored over 200 scientific articles and chapters in medical textbooks.

Julie G. Pilitsis, MD, PhD is a Professor of Neurosurgery and of Neuroscience at Albany Medical College and Chair for the Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics. She is also the Chief of the Division of Functional Neurosurgery and plays a very active role on several committees in organized neurosurgery. She is the past chair of AANS/CNS Section on Pain, AANS/CNS Section on WINS, on the officer track for ASSFN. Her passion is to support everyone involved in neuromodulation to be successful in their pursuits, advancement and ongoing professional development. She developed a leadership development program at her institution and introduced it nationally at the North American Neuromodulation Society where the program will be starting its third year. Dr. Pilitsis has published over 120 journal articles and has maintained 10 years of continuous NIH funding.

Marjorie C. Wang, MD, MPH. Dr. Wang is Professor, Vice Chair of Clinical Operations and Quality, Chief of the Community Division of Neurosurgery, and Director of the Complex Spine Fellowship Program as well as several other roles at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her clinical practice and research focus on spine, patient reported outcomes, quality of care, and health services. She has particular interest in cervical spinal disorders and imaging techniques and has been involved in a number of funded clinical trials. She is the Director of the Spine Service Line for the Froedtert/Medical College of Wisconsin Enterprise, which includes three hospitals and 32 community-based clinics. She is co-chair of the Safety Committee for the Integrated Procedural Platform of Froedtert/Medical College of Wisconsin. She is passionate about the role of surgeons in leadership, quality, and patient advocacy. Dr. Wang is also one of 61 senior female faculty members from across the United States and Canada selected to participate in the 2019-2020 Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women.

Michael Y. Wang, MD. Dr. Wang currently serves as a Professor in the Departments of Neurological Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. He is the Director of Neurosurgery at University of Miami Hospital and the Spine Fellowship Director. Dr. Wang has been an advocate for neurosurgeons and spinal surgeons. He was elected to the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Executive Committee in 2003 and has served and chaired on multiple committees in AANS and CNS as well as within the North American Spine Society. He has also served in numerous other leadership roles for several national and international organizations. His research and clinical interests include minimally invasive spinal surgery, spinal deformity, new technologies, ERAS, robotics, and spinal cord injury biomarkers. He has edited 12 medical textbooks and authored over 600 publications in the medical literature, over 200 of which are peer-reviewed and sits on several editorial review boards.