



SOCIETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

WINTER NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Message from the President



Following almost directly on from the successful SBNS meeting in Brighton in September, a group of SBNS members, including Professor Sir Graham Teasdale and Professor Lindsay Symon flew to Recife in Brazil for the interim meeting of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. Many of the party were

invited speakers, but the main purpose of the trip was to present the SBNS bid to hold the 16th World Congress of Neurosurgery in London in 2017. The interim meeting was held in Porto de Galinhas, a couple of hours away from Recife in a purpose built resort. Unfortunately, the weather was not up to the display of the presidential bikini, for which many of the party were extremely grateful.

The SBNS stand in the exhibition area was manned throughout the meeting by Alix, Suzanne, Michael Foreman from Kenes (our conference organiser) and sundry members of the SBNS party. Many stressballs in the shape of London buses and taxis were distributed and a great sense of support generated. All members of the party networked madly, wearing their specially printed London bid polo shirts at the social events. Many votes were promised and we went into the actual bid process with high hopes. On two consecutive days James Palmer, Chairman of the Bid Committee and I presented the SBNS bid along with the carefully crafted video with clips of trainees and various SBNS members supporting the bid. The presentation was very well received and we remained optimistic. Unfortunately, the vote itself turned out to be a little more FIFA World Cup than International Olympic Committee. In the secret ballot, the promised votes dematerialised and ultimately we lost out to Istanbul. After the anticipation, this was a great disappointment, but you will be glad to know that the British contingent out-partied everyone at the post-vote social event. Heart felt thanks must go to everyone involved in the bid process which has gone on over the past six years. Particular thanks must go to James Palmer who has devoted a huge amount of time, effort and commitment to this process.

It is important for the SBNS to remain part of the wider neurosurgical community and we are attempting to strengthen our links with European societies. There will be a joint meeting of the SBNS with the Swiss Society of Neurosurgery next year on June 7th and 8th in Lugano. We are taking part in the organisation of the scientific programme and I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend. Like our home meetings, the broad spectrum of neurosurgery is covered, with vascular, spinal and oncology sections etc.

Revalidation is now due to start at the end of 2012, although given the number of times that it has already been postponed I remain to be convinced. The intercollegiate log book has been delayed, due to issues with the Data Commissioner on the inclusion of patient identifiers. However, it finally launched, as part of the Surgeons' Portfolio, on 6th December 2011. A paper on remediation for those doctors who fail to revalidate has been prepared by The Department of Health and has just been released. Similarly, the Academy has produced a paper on return to practice after a period of absence, but this has not yet been released. Various pilot studies of revalidation have been undertaken which have, unsurprisingly, revealed that the process requires more time, more money and more training than had previously been anticipated. A strengthened appraisal will be part of the new process together with 360° feedback. Hopefully you will already be collecting "credits" for continuing professional development as this will form part of the process and it will be necessary for it to be recorded electronically if the pilots are anything to go by.

Congratulations should go to Simon Thomson for his commitment to the e-brain project, the programme of neuroscience e-learning, which launched on 25th November 2011. Thanks also to the contributors from all neuroscience specialties who have made this work possible, despite the withdrawal of Department of Health funding at an early stage.

Finally, best wishes to Alix Gordon who will be off on maternity leave until Autumn 2012. I hope all goes well and look forward to her return.

Anne Moore
President, SBNS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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SHARING EXPERTISE

Welcome to New Members

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting held on 8th September 2011 in Brighton during the Autumn Meeting.

Full

Alex Green	Oxford
Nick Park	Liverpool

Associate

Ruvini Abeygunaratne	Manchester
Andrew Adalade	London
Andrew Bacon	Bristol
Nick Carleton-Bland	Salford
Pablo Goetz	Canada
Farzin Hashemian	London
Adel Helmy	Cambridge
Samantha Hettige	Haywards Heath
Mark Hughes	Edinburgh
Harshal Ingale	Nottingham
Tim Jones	London
Anant Kamat	Plymouth
Jothy Kandasamy	Liverpool
John Kitchen	Salford
Pandurang Kulkarni	London
Alex Leggate	Salford
Imran Liaquat	Edinburgh
Fay Newman	Haywards Heath
Puneet Plaha	Oxford
Syed Qadri	Liverpool
Taofiq Sanusi	Hull
Daniel Wright	London
Rasheed Zakaria	Liverpool

Affiliated

Tiago Clemente Morgado	London
Thomas Land	Glasgow
Erin McIlveen	Glasgow
Erica Turr	Manchester

International

Mansoor Ahmad	Pakistan
Kartik Krishnan	Germany
Karunamuni Pushpakumara	Sri Lanka
Rasim Skomorac	Bosnia and Herzegovina

New Appointments

The following members were elected to serve on the SBNS Council for the next five years commencing October 2011 and will replace outgoing members: Mr Laurence Dunn, Mr Nihal Gurusinge and Mr William Harkness (Nihal has however been asked to continue as the SBNS NICE Coordinator as he has done such a great job).



Mr Robert Bradford, The Royal Free Hampstead and The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Robert will be a valuable asset to the SBNS Council. He has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon for 22 years and he has special interests in skull base surgery and neuro-oncology. He was the Chair of the Brain/CNS Board North London Cancer Network (2006-2009). He was also the Clinical Director Neurosciences/Clinical Lead Neurosurgery (2001-2007) and member of the Intercollegiate Board of Examiners in Neurosurgery (2001-2007). He is coming to the end of his period as Clinical Director, so now has the time to give clinical and managerial experience to the SBNS.



Mr Mohsen Javadpour, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

Mohsen has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Liverpool since December 2004. He has recently moved to Beaumont Hospital in Dublin (preferring Dublin Bay prawns to souse!) He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to Council as he was the Clinical Lead for Risk Management at the Walton Centre and was the local principal investigator for 3 RCTs. He is also a member of the MCQ writing group for the Intercollegiate Specialty Board and the current Chairman of the British Neurovascular Group (BNVG). Mohsen is committed to the objectives of the SBNS and has been a proponent of sub specialisation within neurosurgery.



Mr Nick Phillips, Leeds General Infirmary

Nick has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon in Leeds for 14 years, the last 7 as Clinical Director. He has experience of working on fitness to practice for the GMC, the invited review mechanism for the Royal College of Surgeons and is the Neurosurgeon Representative for the Casemix Service developing HRG's. He is also the Training Programme Director for Yorkshire and Humberside.

He is concerned about neurosurgery training in the current period of indecision in the NHS and welcomes the opportunity to represent his colleagues and trainees on the SBNS Council.

EANS/WFNS Representatives

Both our EANS/WFNS Representatives, Mr Paul Chumas and Mr Andras Kemeny also demitted office in October and were replaced by Mr Ciaran Bolger and Mr Aprajay Golash.



Professor Ciaran Bolger, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

Professor Ciaran Bolger is a Consultant at the National Neurosurgery Unit, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin and Head of Department of Clinical Neurosciences RCSI. He has been a full member of the SBNS since 1996 and was President of Eurospine, demitting office in October 2011. He is therefore very aware of the current status and future direction of specialty representation, development and training at European level.

New Appointments (continued)

He feels that strong representation of British and Irish neurosurgery interests, involvement in shaping neurosurgery development and close collaboration with European and world partner societies is essential at this time. In his new role of EANS/WFNS Representative he will ensure SBNS members and council are fully informed of decisions taken at a European and world level that may impact on our specialty and be involved in shaping those decisions.



Mr Aprajay Golash, Royal Preston Hospital
Aprajay has been working as a consultant neurosurgeon at the Royal Preston Hospital for the past 10 years. He has been involved with training as Regional Training Organiser for North West Deanery as well as Assigned Educational Supervisor. He is currently a Regional Specialty Professional Advisor and an examiner for Intercollegiate Neurosurgical Examination. Aprajay also represented the SBNS at the Spinal Division of Italian Neurosurgical Association. He now wants to be more closely involved with SBNS work using his interest in meeting and developing links with neurosurgeons from other countries and will make an excellent SBNS EANS/WFNS Representative.

Mr Nick Phillips (Leeds) and Mr Owen Sparrow (Southampton) were nominated by Council at the meeting in October to be the Society's UEMS Representatives.

Congratulations to all newly elected members.

Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) Representatives

Mr Richard Kerr, Mr Andrew Martin and Mr Emad Shenouda were appointed as SBNS Representatives on the SAC in November for a five year term.

The SAC are now recruiting for 2012 and Neurosurgery has three vacancies (two Joint College and one Specialty Association). The deadline for applying is 31st January 2012.

The meetings of the SAC are held in London (3-5 times per year) and travel expenses to SAC meetings are paid for by the hospital trust or health board where the representative works.

Membership of the SAC is for a period of five years. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please visit the JCST website www.jcst.org/sac_or phone 0207 869 6252.

Sad Farewell



Jagmohan Singh, Consultant Neurosurgeon at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, died suddenly from a myocardial infarct on 3rd September 2011. Jag had been in Stoke since 1997. He qualified from Poona University, India in 1975 and had had junior neurosurgical posts in Liverpool and Dublin. His clinical interests were neuro-oncology and pituitary surgery and he was an examiner for the Intercollegiate Examination Board. He was devoted to his family, especially his 18 month old granddaughter and was spending time in London with them when he took ill. He will be sadly missed.

Neurosurgery Exams

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following trainees passed the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Neurosurgery in October 2011 in Leeds.



Mr Z Ali	Miss N J Johnston
Mr R Bhatia	Miss N C H Keong
Mr P A Bodkin	Mr D Kombogiorgas
Mr M Crocker*	Dr C J McMahon
Miss P M De Lacy	Mr T M Murphy
Mr P Epaliyanage	Mr N V Narayanan
Mr N Haliasos	Mr S Pushpanathan
Mr S Hanif	Mr M Shanmuganathan
Mr D T Holsgrove	Dr M E Sikander
Mr S P S Howarth	Miss C L Ward
Mr R A Hussain	Mr P Weir



*Mr Mathew Crocker from Kings College London, was awarded the Norman Dott Medal for the most outstanding performance in the FRCS(SN) examination during 2011. The medal is awarded annually by the Board of Examiners and will be presented to him at the gala dinner during the next SBNS meeting in Aberdeen in April 2012. Winners of the Norman Dott Medal also receive the Marjorie Newsome Fellowship, which consists of an all expenses paid visit to the Barrow Institute, Phoenix, Arizona for up to 6 weeks (min 3 weeks) and to attend the AANS congress. As you can see from his photo he is the competitive type! Well done and congratulations.

Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal



A Royal Free Hospital neurosurgeon has been honoured by the Queen with the Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal. In his 20 years in the Territorial Army (TA), Colin Shieff has completed five tours of service abroad to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. Colin said: "It's a challenge performing neurosurgery in different and unpredictable environments with the risk of danger. It is also a marvellous learning experience as we will often encounter things we haven't dealt with before. On my first trip we worked in tents like MASH but more recently it has been in well equipped modern hospitals. There's a lot of team work and team building involved, the staff may have no neurosurgical background but they are very capable of working in a different language and with unfamiliar equipment."

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the Nationally Recruited 306 Hospital Support Medical Regiment, his home based TA duties include line managing specialist doctors and nurses and health professionals.

He is also the Defence Consultant Adviser in Neurosurgery which involves planning, committee work, providing advice on health care in the armed forces and specialist opinions on service personnel at home or abroad.

Update from Wales



Until recently, the population of South and West Wales was little under 2.5 million and was served by two relatively small neurosurgical units 45 miles apart. In 1999 the Cardiff and Swansea consultants, recognising the need for amalgamation, held a series of meetings to explore this. In October 2009 the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health announced the merger. The intervening decade saw several major reviews, the centralisation of paediatric neurosurgery in Cardiff, much lobbying and increasing difficulty maintaining both service and training.

Finally, the Minister commissioned our past president James Steers to conduct a far-reaching review of all clinical neurosciences and associated services in South and West Wales, neurosurgery being the main driver (North Wales, popn 0.6 million, continues to be served by Liverpool). James' panel emphatically recommended a single site for neurosurgery but was not permitted to propose the location. Cardiff was the preferred option of the Implementation Board chaired by Dr Alan Axford, a well-respected and recently-retired Medical Director from West Wales whose well-deserved peace and quiet was shattered by the Ministerial summons. After a considerable amount of work extending over nearly a year dealing with very difficult issues affecting many people, both professionally and personally and despite overt political opposition, the Minister graciously accepted that neurosurgery should be based in Cardiff.

Integral to the process, was to develop Swansea's spinal surgery service and two consultant colleagues stayed there to take up this challenge.

Since the announcement, Cardiff has gained two new state-of-the-art dedicated operating theatres, a superb new 18-bed high-care ward, an establishment of nine (soon to be 10) consultants, and a happier deanery. This is not coincidental.

Finally, after earlier unsuccessful representations, Cardiff University has established a Chair in Functional Neurosurgery. We will be welcoming Prof William Gray in November. Liam's research interests (neurogenesis, neurodegenerative disorders and stem cells) resonate with Cardiff University's prominent neuroscience programmes and his clinical special interest (epilepsy surgery) will be welcome in Cardiff, where the UK's first specialist epilepsy unit was established. Needless to say, this is an immensely significant development.

Following the long-awaited unification, neurosurgery in Wales is in the ascendancy!

Brian Simpson,
Consultant Neurosurgeon, Cardiff

If you would like to update the membership on events in your unit in the next issue of the newsletter please contact Suzanne at the SBNS office.

Great Expectations!



For those of you who don't already know, Alix Gordon, SBNS Administrator, is expecting her first child on the 16th January and will be on Maternity Leave from mid December. Hopefully after several months of sleepless nights and smelly nappies the thought of coming back to work for the SBNS will seem like an attractive proposition and she will keep her promise and return to work!

Alix does not like surprises so she has found out the sex of her baby – it's a girl! If she is anything like her mum she is going to be a cutie, so watch out for a photo in the summer edition of the newsletter. We all wish her and husband Jamie all the best.

To cover for Alix while she is away, we have employed Alisha Smith and she started work on the 5th December. Alisha is Australian and previously worked for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons so she is used to working within the medical profession. She will cover Alix's role: finance, membership and the exhibition and finance side of the SBNS Conferences. The Aberdeen meeting will be her first meeting so please be gentle with her and make her feel welcome. Alisha's email address will be admin3@sbns.org.uk and her direct line telephone number will be the same as Alix's 020 7869 6887.



SBNS AND NANSIG STUDENT DAY 12th November 2011

The annual national careers day in neurosurgery took place on the 12th November at the Royal College of Surgeons, England and proved to be just as popular as last year's. Over 130 medical students and foundation doctors from around the UK attended the event, which was chaired by the SBNS President Elect, Mr Richard Nelson. Our speakers included Mr Philip Van Hille, Mr Owen Sparrow, Mr Ian Kamaly, Mr Kristian Aquilina, Miss Katie Gilkes, Mr Crispin Wigfield, Prof Liam Gray and Mr Neil Kitchen.

We had presentations discussing the neurosurgical training program and the national training selection in the morning. B. Braun Medical Ltd, Forth Medical, Codman and Biomet Spine arranged practical demonstrations of all gadgets neurosurgery related during the lunch break. The focus of the afternoon was aimed at subspecialties in neurosurgery with lectures and a series of interactive video clips. Prof Gray also spoke about the opportunities in academic neurosurgery and some of the challenges faced in and out of the ACF program. The afternoon was rounded up with a Q&A session.



From the submitted abstracts, the B. Braun Medical Ltd Undergraduate and Foundation Doctor prize was awarded to Mr Y Phillippou from the University of Cambridge for his presentation on "The Role of IDH-1 Mutation in Associated Glioma Seizures". Mr Phillippou has been invited to present this abstract at the SBNS Spring Meeting in Aberdeen.

This year we have collected data looking at the perception of neurosurgery amongst medical students and junior doctors and the usefulness of such a careers day, we anticipate an interesting outcome.

NANSIG have also rolled out a regional representative scheme which aims to connect our growing network of students interested in the neurosciences via our website www.nansig.com. We look forward to further input from the SBNS members to widen this initiative.

We would like to thank the SBNS for supporting a highly enjoyable and valued event. We are also very grateful to our sponsors for their financial support and input.

Shami Acharya
NANSIG Co-Chair, England

New SBNS Website – www.sbns.org.uk

I am pleased to announce that the SBNS website is undergoing a complete makeover (without the aid of Botox!). The new site is being designed by Souk Response who will also host and support it. We plan to launch the new site early in the New Year and hope that you will like the new design and find it more user friendly.

On the new site your username will be your current email address and your password will remain the same as for the old site. It is therefore doubly important that the SBNS Office has a note of your correct email address. Likewise for entry into the ebrain site.

Members who are in arrears for more than 2 months will be locked out of the site until they are paid up so it is important you check your subscriptions are up to date or better still ensure you pay by Direct Debit. Members who have paid will be able to connect to the E-logbook and British Journal of Neurosurgery via the site. They will also receive a special login to access the ebrain project for free.

The Research Network page has been developed by the Research Development Manager and will be an invaluable resource for members interested in getting involved in neurosurgical research.

All announcements and important events/notices will be posted on the site on the home page so please visit the site on a regular basis so that you are kept informed. This facility should reduce the number of emails from the SBNS Office.

Once the new site is up and running we would welcome your feedback, so do let us know what you think.

ebrain Launch 25th November 2011



After 18 months of development, ebrain was successfully launched at the Royal College of Surgeons in London on the 25th November. ebrain is the brand new distance learning facility owned by the Joint Neurosciences Council www.jointneurosciences.org. The SBNS, through its membership of the Joint Neurosciences Council, is providing free access to this resource for all its members.

ebrain currently consists of over 550 eLearning sessions that cover the whole of the clinical neurosciences. Each session is designed to take 20 minutes to complete. Once a session has been completed and providing the learner provides feedback, then a certificate can be printed for their portfolio.

ebrain has been developed by over 400 authors, 32 module editors and 4 clinical leads, mostly from the UK but with some support from Europe. All the clinicians involved have given their time free of charge.

ebrain is truly a multimedia facility. It features videos, animations, still images, questions, mouseover texts, audio and case scenarios. It provides comprehensive cover of the clinical neurosciences and very broad coverage of neurosurgery topics. Learning pathways are being designed that reflect the ISCP curriculum.

Future developments for ebrain will include more sessions, improved learning pathways, virtual patients/case of the month and practice MCQs. ebrain is a learning resource that we are expecting will continue to grow and evolve very rapidly.

All paid up SBNS members will receive a login and password. ebrain can be found at www.ebrainjnc.com. For password enquiries please contact the SBNS admin team in the first instance. If you are having problems logging in then use the technical checker on the website first. In particular please make sure that pop-ups are not blocked.

Simon Thomson
Chief Editor, ebrain

SBNS Autumn Meeting, Brighton, 8th-10th September 2011



Electronic Copies of the group photograph may be obtained from the SBNS office.

When Alix and I arrived in Brighton on the Monday night to set up for the Autumn SBNS Meeting, we were greeted with gale force winds and lashing rain (nicknamed Hurricane SBNS!). Not quite the lovely seaside conference we were looking forward to and we had serious fears the weather would scupper our plans for the Welcome Reception on Brighton Pier. Luckily the weather improved and we were able to have some fun at the fair and a successful conference.

The Life Long Learning Session on Skull Base Neurosurgery was led by our host Carl Hardwidge, who also opened the meeting with a talk on "The History of Acoustic Neuroma Surgery and the Current State of the Art". Our other guest lectures were delivered by Prof Ladislau Steiner from Germany and Giles Critchley's brother, Prof Hugo Critchley. Prof Ironside also gave an excellent talk on CJD and Neurosurgery and Prof Bruce Campbell delivered a breakfast seminar on NICE Interventional Programme in relation to Neurosurgery.

We also had some excellent free paper sessions from the abstracts submitted on a wide variety of topics. Prizes were awarded as follows:



Best Oral Presentation (Sponsored by Codman UK) Mr Umar Farooq from Birmingham Children's Hospital, for his abstract entitled: "Regression of chronic hindbrain hernia following posterior calvarial augmentation in children: New insights into pathology of hindbrain hernia."



Best Oral Poster (Sponsored by Archimedes Pharma) Mr D Hajra from Royal Preston Hospital, for his abstract "Hartshill Frame Fixation For Posterior Spinal Stabilisation: A Simple Technique in the Era of Pedicle Screw Rod Fixation".

Please note Mr D Hajra presented the abstract at the meeting, but Mr A Razzaq was the first author.



British Journal of Neurosurgery Prize (Sponsored by Informa) Mr I Ughratda from Queens Medial Centre, Nottingham, for this abstract: "Deviation of the cisternal segment of the trigeminal nerve is more predictive of symptomatic neurovascular compression than point of contact at root entry zone – A MRI study".

Congratulations to all winners.

The gala dinner was held at Glyndebourne Opera House and as promised we were treated to excellent food, wine and entertainment.

The Allied Health Professionals held their first business meeting with a view to exploring how their members could be more involved with SBNS scientific meetings and encourage attendance, so watch this space!

Our thanks go to everyone who contributed to making this meeting a success; our colleagues at Hurstwood Park, the chairs, abstract scorers, session helpers, sponsors and of course the delegates.

Carl Hardwidge is a glutton for punishment and will be doing it all again on the 16th-19th May 2012 when he hosts the 6th International Congress of the World Federation of Skull Base Societies and the 10th European Skull Base Society Congress in the same venue, so please give him your support.

SBNS Spring Meeting, 18th–20th April 2012



The SBNS Spring meeting will be hosted by our colleagues at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. This will be the first time the meeting has been held in Aberdeen and our hosts are pulling out all the

stops to make it a memorable occasion. The meeting will be held at Ardoe House, which as you can see is a spectacular hotel in the heart of the countryside and we plan to take full advantage of the location. On Tuesday 17th, the hosts plan to hold a 3D Operative Neuroanatomy slide show in the afternoon for trainees and for golfers who want to take advantage of Aberdeen's famous golf courses a game of golf can be arranged at the nearby Insh Golf Course. Tee off time will be at 15:00. Spaces are limited so register your interest early.

The Life Long Learning Session on Wednesday morning will be on Neurophysiology in Neurosurgery: Why? When? and How? The session will cover selected aspects of the specialty followed by a Q&A session aimed at consultants and trainees. An excellent opportunity to update your knowledge and top up your CPD points. The three main lectures will be as listed below:

Victor Horsley Lecture: Prof Ian Whittle, Prof of Neurosurgery, Edinburgh – "Peritumoural brain dysfunction: Clinical, Pathophysiological and Surgical Perspectives".

Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture: Prof Ramond Sawaya, Prof and Chairman, Dept of Neurosurgery, Univ of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA – "Current and Future Trends in the Management of Brain Metastasis".

Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture: Prof Graeme F Nixon, Dept of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen – "The role of Lipids in Cerebrovascular Disease".

There will also be free paper sessions from the abstracts submitted, breakfast and evening seminars and an extensive trade exhibition with all the latest equipment and innovations. The hosts and meetings committee also have a few additional clinical sessions/talks planned.

The welcome reception on Wednesday evening will be at Ardoe House so you won't have far to travel after a wee dram or two! We have a Scottish themed evening planned with traditional Scottish fare and whisky tasting. Dress code smart/casual, Kilts are optional.

As usual the SBNS, BNTA and Allied Health Professionals will hold their business meetings on the Thursday afternoon just before the gala dinner.

We will continue our offer of complimentary registration for 2 non-medical neurosurgical staff per unit to attend SBNS meetings.

Nominations are via the Unit Liaison Officer who should forward details to Alisha Smith at the SBNS Office admin3@sbns.org.uk. Apply early to avoid disappointment.

The gala dinner will be held in the beautiful Art Deco Ballroom on Aberdeen's beachfront which has been foremost in the hearts of Aberdonians since it first opened its doors in 1929. We hope to book some expert dancers, traditional Scottish and ballroom to entertain, but guests will also have an opportunity to step out on the dance floor and give their dancing shoes an airing if they wish. Partners and spouses are welcome. The evening will also be an opportunity to socialize with colleagues and enjoy good food and wine. Dress code is black tie and for Strictly Come Dancing fans, spandex and sequins!

We do not have a partners' programme planned, but there is plenty to do and see and our hosts would be only too happy to offer advice and suggestions on Aberdeen's attractions and arrange group outings on request.

The Registration line will be open mid January and accommodation can also be booked on the website via Intouch International. Please book early as rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis and you wouldn't want to miss out on staying at Ardoe House. Transport to Aberdeen is easier than you might think, full details are on the conference page of the website.

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Suzanne Murray
Senior SBNS Administrator

Joint Annual Meeting Swiss Society of Neurosurgery and Society of British Neurological Surgeons, June 7th–8th 2012



The SBNS have been invited to join the Swiss Society of Neurosurgery for their Annual Meeting on the 7th–8th June 2012. The meeting will be held in

Palazzo dei Congressi, Lugano, Switzerland. As you can see from the photo above the conference venue is located on the picturesque Lake Lugano with a contrasting mountain and valley setting.

We have been asked to contribute to the programme, provide speakers, chairs and abstract presentations. There will be four clinical sessions; Vascular and Tumours on day 1, Trauma and Spine on day 2 and a round table discussion on the "Future of neurosurgery; research and funding problems and opportunities in individual countries".

We would like to have a good turnout from the SBNS and would encourage members to submit abstracts and attend. The closing date for submission is the 1st April 2012. Please mark your diaries! For further information please visit: www.imk.ch/ssn2012.

Dates for your Diary

FUTURE SBNS MEETINGS

18th–20th April 2012
SBNS Spring Meeting – Aberdeen

26th–28th September 2012
SBNS Autumn Meeting – Leeds

22nd–24th May 2013
SBNS Spring Meeting – Sheffield

18th–20th January 2012
The British Skull Base Society Meeting
Venue: Harrogate Majestic Hotel
For more information email:
academia.bb muk@b braun.com
www.aesculap-academia.co.uk

9th–11th February 2012
Lister Meeting
Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
For further information visit:
<http://www.lister2012.com/>

9th–10th February 2012
British Neurovascular Group 3rd Annual Meeting 2012
Venue: De Vere Grand Harbour, Grand

Harbour, West Quay Road, Southampton, Hampshire,
For more information email:
academia.bb muk@b braun.com
www.aesculap-academia.co.uk

8th–9th March 2012
British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) Meeting
Venue: Redworth Hall Hotel, Darlington
For further information visit:
<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/bnrg/>
Or contact:
academia.bb muk@b braun.com

21st–25th March 2012
Ninth World Congress of The International Brain Injury Association
Venue: Edinburgh
For further information visit
www.internationalbrain.org
SBNS members are entitled to register at the IBIA members rate

16th–19th May 2012
6th International Congress of the World Federation of Skull Base Societies
10th European Skull Base Society Congress
Venue: Brighton, UK
For further information visit:
www.skullbase2012.com

Neurosurgery Courses

The Royal College of Surgeons runs a number of Neurosurgical courses at the college. For further details please visit www.rcseng.ac.uk

The Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS Colleagues and contributions are welcome for the next issue – please contact:

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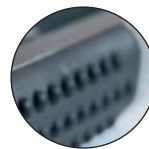
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