



Society of British Neurological Surgeons



Alistair Jenkins, SBNS President

A Message from the President

Dear friends,

As I write this, I'm experiencing the joy of finally being free of a mask in the hospital for the first time in two years - at least for the time being. We've thought before that we were over Covid, and we've certainly acted like it sometimes, but as both numbers and morbidity fall (again) it is hard not to be optimistic - though we know that in the ruthlessly Darwinian world of a virus, a more infective and resistant strain may be round the corner.

When troubles come, they come not single spies, but in battalions - and the world certainly has enough right now. In our Society, meantime, the news is better. We are afloat financially, and can support and increase our charitable commitments abroad; we have a successful and flourishing journal; and the litigation group's initiative, joining forces with the FSSA, culminated in the offer by Jeremy Hunt of a meeting in the Houses of Parliament - unfortunately postponed due to the leadership crisis.

Many of you responded to our survey of attitudes to changing the name of the society to include Ireland. This has been discussed before, but never got anywhere - probably due to apathy and tradition! Our recent survey showed strong support for change, although not surprisingly this was not unanimous. 358 of 693 polled actually voted (52%); 73% of those who voted were in favour of a name change. The Council have discussed this at length. In keeping with our constitution we propose to seek a mandate at the next Annual General Meeting (in Blackpool) to hold a subsequent referendum of full and associate members on name change, with the following options:

Option 1: Change the name to The Society of Neurological Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland or **Option 2:** Leave the name as The Society of British Neurological Surgeons.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion group has been very busy. Thanks to those who completed the online survey - the results are fascinating, and sometimes make uncomfortable reading. We plan to present this work at the Blackpool meeting.

Our scientific meetings are one of our main *raison d'être*, and have been expanding in scope and interest. Many have commented on the quality of speakers and presentations. After the success of Dundee we thought we might come down to earth abruptly, but the feedback on the meeting in Cardiff was superb. I really enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the excellent programme, and our guests commented on how we all seem to be inclusive and to support each other. The next meeting in [Blackpool](#) will strive to continue this. The programme looks excellent, and the social events - one of my main reasons for going over the years - will be great fun. And of course at that meeting I will be handing the presidency over to my successor, Peter Whitfield!

I've had a great time in the post, and have felt enormously privileged to try to fill some very large shoes (subs - did I get that right?). It's not been what I envisaged back in 2019, but the pandemic has brought its own challenges and excitement. I finally succumbed to the disease at an FSSA meeting a couple of months ago, when four out of the ten society presidents came down with it! So - thank you all for supporting me, or at least tolerating me, for the past two years. The Society is I think more relevant than ever in difficult times, and you will be in extremely good hands with Peter - and of course the rest of Council.

Finally, AJ's Curry Tour hit the buffers with Covid, with barely a quarter of units visited. I would be very keen to continue this as Past President, so please get in touch if you are interested in sharing the problems and aspirations of your unit. I can't promise that we can help, but we can certainly try!

Alistair Jenkins
SBNS President

Content

	Page
A Message From The President	1
Welcome New Members	2
New Appointments	2-3
Congratulations	4
Sad Farewell	5
SBNS Cardiff Meeting, 30th March - 1st April	6-8
SBNS Blackpool Meeting, 27th - 30th September	9-10
3rd Mediterranean Association of Neurological Surgeons Congress - SBNS are Invited Guests!	11
NANSIG/SBNS Careers' Day, 29th January 2022	12
NHS England and NHS improvement and national consultant information programme (NCIP)	13
SBNS National Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP)	13
Future Leaders Programme For Surgeons (FLP) 2022	14
ebrain updates for Summer 2022	14
SAC Open Day, 17th June 2022	15
Clinical Trials Update: a Spotlight on DISCUS, DENS, CARE and MAST	16
The International BNA 2023 Festival of Neuroscience	18
Dates For Your Diary	19
Meetings Supported By Aesculap Academia	19

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were ratified by Council Oct 2021 and Jan 2022.

Full

Aminul Ahmed	London
Harith Akram	London
Deepti Bhargava	Walton Centre
Huan Chan	Southampton
Patrick Grover	London
Harutomo Hasegawa	London
Mark Hughes	Edinburgh
Anthony Jesurasa	Cardiff
Angelos Kolias	Cambridge
Mark Kotter	Cambridge
Hani Marcus	London
Grainne McKenna	London
Mohammad Naushahi	Cambridge
Mohamed Okasha	Dundee
Asim Sheikh	Leeds
William Singleton	Bristol
Kanthaluby Tambirajoo	Sheffield
Fahid Tariqrasul	London
Georgios Tsermoulas	Birmingham
Kathrin Whitehouse	Cardiff
Arif Zafar	Sheffield
Rasheed Zakaria	Liverpool

Associate

Selma Alahmad	London
Mutiu Asha	Glasgow
Cristina Cernei	Bristol
Hadleigh Cuthbert	Coventry
Mohamed Dablouk	Cork
Mohamed Elhawi	Manchester
Freddie Ewbank	Southampton
Lucie Ferguson	Newcastle
Daniel Fountain	Oxford
Gilbert Gravino	Liverpool
Hugo Horsfall	London
Oliver Kennion	Newcastle
Danyal Khan	London
Saffwan Mohamed	South Tees
Midhun Mohan	Liverpool
Oliver Mowforth	Cambridge
Engelbert Mthunzi	Imperial
Daniel Thompson	Bristol
Emma Toman	Birmingham
Yizhou Wan	Oxford

Affiliated

Asad Abbas	Nottingham
Ahmed Ahmed	Aberdeen
Dorin Fetche	London
Andrew Fraser	Aberdeen
John Paul Haugh	Edinburgh
Courtney Johnson	Oxford
Sheikh Momin	Kent
Samuel Okoye	Birmingham
Sami Rashed	London
Samira Saadoun	London
Robert Spencer	Cardiff

Senior

Tipu Aziz	Oxford
Robert Macfarlane	Cambridge
Stuart Ross	Leeds

International

Mahmud Alam	Iraq
Samuel Hall	Australia
Leonardo Lustgarten	USA

NEW APPOINTMENTS

When Nick Phillips stepped down as NNAP Chair it was agreed that the job was too much for one person and a whole new team was appointed in January 2022. The applications received were of a very high standard and the interview panel decided to appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and 3 trainees instead of the 2 positions advertised.

Adam Wahba continues as the NNAP Fellow until the end of the year. We will shortly be advertising for this position in the coming months to allow for a handover.



National Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP) Chair - Adel Helmy

Adel is a consultant neurosurgeon in Cambridge with an interest in Skull Base, Vascular and Trauma neurosurgery. He has a wide academic interest and is an Associate Professor at the University of Cambridge. See section on NNAP on page 13 to find out his plans for the future of NNAP.



NNAP Vice Chair – Adam Williams

Adam Williams is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Clinical Lead at Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

Adam completed his general training in Neurosurgery in Bristol and undertook a fellowship in his sub speciality interest, endoscopic pituitary and skull base neurosurgery, in Oxford. His primary clinical interests include neuromodulation therapies for patients with complex pain and endoscopic pituitary surgery.

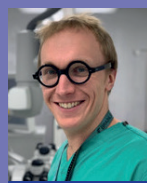
He has a keen interest in education and training and is a member of the Neurosurgery SAC. He is also enthused by using data in a streamlined way to assist clinicians in delivering the best care for their patients and improving the departments in which they work.

NNAP TRAINEES



Simon Lammy

Simon is a ST8 neurosurgical SpR at the Institute of Neurological Sciences and Neuro Oncology Research Fellow at the Institute of Cancer Sciences. He is also a Faculty Tutor in Critical Care and Associate Surgical Specialty Lead in Neurosurgery at the RCoSeng. Throughout his training he has authored the 2nd and 3rd Editions of Surgical Critical Care for the MRCS OSCE and published both institutional and multi-institutional data sets through large collaborative endeavours.



Ben Davies

Dr Ben Davies BSc. MBChB.(Hons) MPhil. MRCS is a ST5 Cambridge Trainee, currently out of programme for research with a NIHR Clinical Research Fellowship at the University of Cambridge. He has a special interest in Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy, with a research focus of clinical assessment and implementation science. He co-leads the AO Spine RECODE DCM Project, NIHR RECODE Myelopathy, a regenerative medicine trial, and NIHR POLYFIX DCM, an international RCT of laminectomy versus laminectomy and fusion. Ben also co-leads ICENI, a UK group exploring multi-morbidity and frailty in Neurosurgery, currently forming clinical practice guidelines for CSDH. Ben co-founded Myelopathy.org, an international DCM charity,

and MoveMed.io, a start-up creating digital biomarkers for neuromuscular disease. Ben also sits on the North American Spine Society, Evidence Based Medicine Committee and the AO Spine, Spinal Cord Injury Knowledge forum.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

NNAP TRAINEES



Anand Pandit

Anand is a neurosurgical trainee in the North Thames Deanery and post-doctoral research fellow at UCL. He is passionate about using data science and machine learning to innovate and improve patient pathways and has particular research interests in neuro-oncology, advanced neuroimaging and surgical education.



**British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group (BPNG) Chair
Atul Tyagi**

I am one of the 4 paediatric neurosurgeons at the Leeds General Infirmary and was appointed in 2000. I have a mixed practice with both paediatric and adult patients covering spinal dysraphism, vascular and endonasal pathologies. My other interest is medical education which is something I enjoy and keen to continue to develop in my current role.

I have been a member of the BPNG ever since I was appointed and felt that it has been a useful forum for voicing the opinions/concerns/aspirations of the paediatric neurosurgical group and it has evolved substantially over the years. I am honoured to be representing the BPNG and hope to continue the good work of the previous chair.

All subspecialty Leads are invited to attend council meetings to update council on the activities within their sub-speciality.



**New College Representatives on SBNS Council (Ex-officio Members)
Likhith Alakandy**

Likhith Alakandy had taken over as the chair of the Neurosurgery Surgical Specialty Boards (SSB) at the Royal College of surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) from May 2022. As such he is also invited on to the SBNS Council as an Ex-Officio member to update Council on the RCS Ed College affairs and members in the Scottish Units.

Interest groups and surgical specialties are represented at the college by SSBs who ensure that the membership's specialist professional interests have a voice within the College. The SSBs can both raise issues for discussion with the College's Council and have matters referred to them by Council. SSBs have between four and ten members from a particular specialty, including a trainee representative, SAS grade representative, Council member, member of the SAC, and, where appropriate, surgical sub-specialties.

The board considers specialty-specific issues on behalf of the College and provide relevant advice and guidance to the College Council in addition to facilitating reciprocal engagement and communication between the College and the neurosurgical specialty across the UK and overseas. When appropriate the board supports the College's specialty examinations, as agreed with the Convener of Examinations and Examinations Department. The board also supports the College's Education activity by reviewing and contributing to its education portfolio in each specialty, including through courses and webinars. The board also supports the College's professional standards activity by nominating its members to act as RCSEd-

appointed assessors/reviewers for Examinations, external courses, overseas training facilities, and represent the College on Advisory Appointment Committee.

Other College Representatives currently on Council as Ex-officio members

Royal College of England – Nick Phillips Royal College of Surgeon of Ireland - Prof. Ciaran Bolger Northern Ireland - Stephen Cooke Royal College of Physicians in Glasgow – Ravindra Nannapaneni

The RCS reps are invited to council on an ad hoc basis to update council on the activities in their college/region.



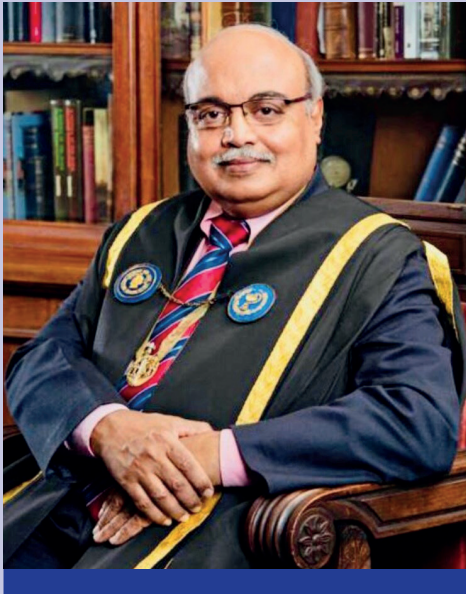
**Joint Neurosciences Council President and New SBNS Council Member
Rikin Trivedi – Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge**

The JNC is the overarching body that runs eBrain, and is made up from a number of neuroscience and related member societies, including the SBNS. It was established about 40 years or so ago and has had varying functions over that time, and is well positioned to promote the neurosciences at many levels. In my time as the next JNC President, I am aiming to further these efforts both domestically and internationally.

NEWS FLASH!

Whilst preparing the newsletter I just received the results of the recent council ballot and I am pleased to announce that Rikin has also been elected on to the SBNS Council, so he is to be doubly congratulated. Well done! Looks like he is on a winning streak.

CONGRATULATIONS



Pragnesh Bhatt

Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society President

Aberdeen Medical Society was founded in 1789 by a group of students and its name was later on changed to the "Aberdeen Medio-Chirurgical Society" in 1811. Sir James McGrigor was its founder member and an obelisk to his memory has been placed in the Duthie Park in the centre of the city. The three pillars of the society are Education, Heritage and Fellowship. Over the years, the society has played an important and influential role in the medical life of Aberdeen.

It is a matter of great honour that I was unanimously elected as the (first ever neurosurgeon) president for the year 2021-22.

Further details about the society can be explored through www.med-chi.co.uk



Susan Honeyman

National Selection and Jr Barrow Foundation Travel Fellowship

Susan Honeyman achieved the highest National Selection score this year. This is an amazing achievement as only the crème de la crème get through. The highest scorer is doubly rewarded as they also receive the Junior Barrow Foundation UK Travel Fellowship. The Fellowship is supported by Barrow Foundation UK. The award is for up to £3,000 to visit the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona for two weeks.

"I am delighted to have ranked first in National Selection and to receive this award. I am most grateful to both the Barrow Foundation and the SBNS for this opportunity. I look forward to starting my training as an Academic Clinical Fellow and Neurosurgery ST1 in Oxford."



Danyal Khan

Hugh Cairns Essay Prize

This year's Hugh Cairns Essay Prize was awarded to Danyal Khan is a neurosurgery trainee in London and an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow at UCL for this essay entitled: CSF Rhinorrhoea after Endonasal Intervention to the Skull Base (CRANIAL): A Multicentre Prospective Observational Study

The CRANIAL collaborative study would not have been possible without the help and support of the Neurology and Neurosurgery Interest Group (NANSIG) and the British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative (BNTRC) and the dedication of students, trainees, fellows and consultants across the UK and Ireland. Thank you all! Danyal will be presenting his essay at the SBNS Meeting in Blackpool, if you want to find out more about his work please register and support him.

SAD FAREWELL



Matthew Crocker MA (Oxon), BMBCh, FRCS(SN) Consultant Neurosurgeon (qualified 2000)

1976 - 27.01.22

It is with great sadness to report the death of Matthew Crocker, Neurosurgeon and SBNS member, earlier this year.

Matt was brought up in Norfolk where he attended King Edward VI School in Norwich and gained a place at New College Oxford in 1994. Following house jobs at the John Radcliffe and undertaking a broad range of SHO jobs in London, he obtained a South London Neurosurgery NTN in 2005. During training, Matt had a prolific capability in publishing papers (>50 in 6 years) and spent 2 years as a McKissock Neurosurgery Lecturer at St George's, studying cerebral blood flow in glioblastoma. He was a regular attendee at SBNS meetings, always with multiple presentations and frequently was the life and soul of the party in the evenings. He had an enviable logbook at the end of training and took the FRCS(SN) in 2011 and was awarded the Norman Dott Medal.

Matt was appointed to the Atkinson Morley Department of Neurosurgery at St George's Hospital in 2012 as a generalist however within a short time was a highly skilled and respected complex spine surgeon. He was the first to learn and develop new techniques, more

recently collaborating with his Orthopaedic-Spinal colleagues, bridging the 'Neuro-Ortho' gap. Due to his natural surgical ability, he was one of the few who could treat all spinal disorders from any approach; he was particularly skilled in surgery for intramedullary spinal tumours. Matt was passionate about team working and developing networks. As well as serving his term as department lead, he pioneered our regional spinal network which he devised in 2016.

Matt displayed boundless energy at work. He had a 'stay until the job is done' mentality and was the last person to hand over an incomplete task during his training. His work ethic and fascination with all things neurosurgical was infectious and without doubt is reflected in the loss felt by his patients and trainees in particular. This same energy persisted out of work where he completed numerous marathons, triathlons and Ironman competitions and was a highly accomplished rower. He would cycle to meetings all over the country and was as comfortable in lycra as a well-tailored suit. Matt was friendly, sociable and was known and loved by everyone in the hospital and is sorely missed by all. His combination of a dry sense of humour mixed with outrageous jokes was legendary as was his generosity, kindness and encyclopaedic general knowledge. Matt was a great trainer, surgeon, colleague and friend and his untimely death leaves great sorrow and a one-of-a-kind shaped hole in the world of Neurosurgery. He leaves his wife Helen and their three children, Maeve, Laetitia and Torin.

Timothy Jones Consultant St. Georges Hospital



Martin Rice Edwards

1934 – 19.06.22

Martin Rice Edwards was Consultant Neurosurgeon at Central Middlesex Hospital prior to the unit transferring to Charing Cross Hospital in 1974, retiring in 1997. Alongside Mr Robin Illingworth, they established the West London Neurosciences Centre, with a comprehensive neurosurgical practice for both adults and children.

He was a caring and kind, meticulous neurosurgeon who was revered by his patients and their families.

A gracious man who loved music, opera, art, photography and particularly travel, taking journeys alone to his beloved India, and the Far East. Beautiful, vibrant photographs would be posted on Facebook reflecting these passions.

He leaves behind his wife Minette and his three children.

A Thanksgiving was held on the 19 July 2022 which was attended by his family, friends and colleagues.

Nigel Mendoza Consultant, Charing Cross Hospital

SBNS CARDIFF MEETING, 30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL 2022



After the success of the Dundee meeting last September, our first face to face meeting following months of lockdown, I must admit I was a little apprehensive about the Spring meeting in Cardiff. Would we receive a good quantity of abstracts? Would it be as well attended? Will there be another lockdown? I needn't have feared. The meeting went ahead as planned and was every bit as good and the feedback from delegates, speakers and sponsors confirmed this.

The British Vascular Neurosurgical Group (BVNG) joined the meeting and held a full

day subspecialty meeting on Tuesday prior to the start of the main meeting. It was a great opportunity for members to share up-to-date neurovascular knowledge, discuss current and future practice as well as clinical audit and research. They focused on two main topics: The UK and Ireland Subarachnoid Haemorrhage (SAH) Database, 2021 was the 10 year anniversary of this multicentre registry. Mr H Patel gave an update on the data and there was an open discussion on its future and ways of maximising its use. The last half of the meeting had an educational theme and consisted of a series

of neurovascular cases which were streamed live for participants. All in all a very successful and informative meeting.

The main meeting opened on Wednesday morning with a Life Long Learning Session which was also on Vascular neurosurgery. It was organised by James Galea from the host unit and co-chaired by the BVNG Chair, Mr Raghu Vindlacheruvu. There were several renowned speakers who shared their knowledge, including an Interventional Neuroradiologist and a neurovascular nurse, from the Host unit.



The Sir Victor Horsley Lecture From Cronus to Heraclitus; a journey in Brain Repair”, was delivered by Prof. Liam Gray who has a wealth of knowledge in neurosurgical research and was a former Chair of the SBNS Academic Committee.



On Thursday Professor Susan Short gave an excellent oncology talk “The landscape for novel agent treatment in glioblastoma” in honour of Pablo Goetz, a former consultant in Cardiff who sadly passed away in February 2020 from colon cancer. This was preceded by a moving tribute to Pablo by his close friend and colleague Jesús LaFuente via Zoom. Pablo’s wife Victoria, his sister and brother-in-law attended the talk.



The Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture was presented by a former SBNS President, Richard Nelson, where he reflected on his long career in Neurosurgery. The title of his talk was “What really works?” Judging by his antics at the Gala Dinner later that evening the answer might also be not taking yourself too seriously! Achieving a good work life balance has always been one of Rick’s goals.

In the afternoon Ian Kamaly-Asl, the SBNS Representative of the SBNS Equality, Diversity, Bullying & Undermining in the Workplace Representative, informed members of the proposed SBNS Mentoring Programme that he hopes to have in place in the near future.

This was followed by a fascinating talk on neurology in the National Gallery by Professor Phil Smith. Who knew you could diagnose someone’s neurological condition from a painting!



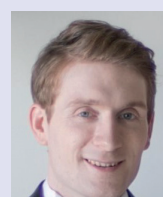
The final guest lecture on Friday “Working with what you have to build what you want”, was given by Professor Anthony Figaji, who is an experienced paediatric neurosurgeon based at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital & University of Cape Town, SA. He is also one of the founding members of GlobalNeuro.

In addition to the Guest Lectures there were several plenary talks by experts in their field, and there were also NNAP and trial updates.

As usual we had two interesting breakfast seminars which were hosted by Medprin/Severn “Cranial Closure - Our Experience” and Insightec, “Focused Ultrasound for Essential Tremor? NHS England says yes”

The Free Paper Oral and Poster Sessions were of a very high standard and the chairs who scored the papers found it extremely difficult to select an overall winner so the winners should be extremely proud of their achievements. For future meetings the Meetings Committee have decided that they will award a certificate for the best presentation in each category and the overall winner will receive a book token and an invite to the next gala dinner.

PRIZE WINNERS



BEST ORAL PRESENTATION PRIZE
DANIEL LEWIS

Best Oral Presentation Prize was awarded to Daniel Lewis for his abstract - **Detection of early changes in the post-radiosurgery vestibular schwannoma microenvironment using multinuclear MRI.**

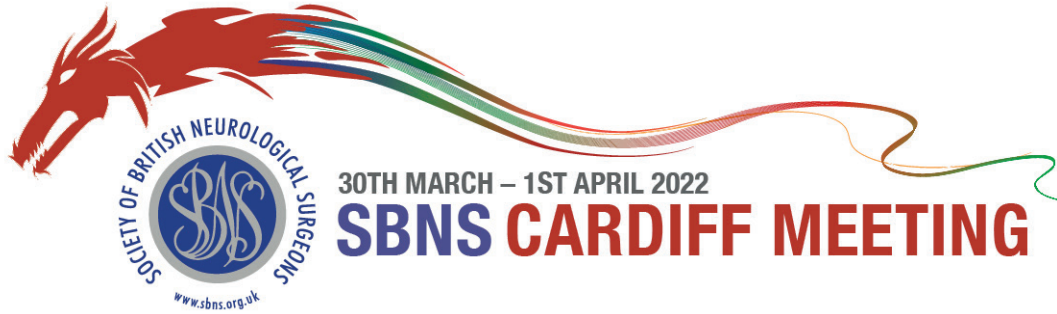


BEST POSTER PRESENTATION PRIZE
KANZA TARIQ

Best Poster Presentation Prize was awarded to Kanza Tariq for her poster entitled - **Watkins’: The walking app for normal pressure hydrocephalus and decompensated long-standing overt ventriculomegaly patients.**

Congratulations to you both and we look forward to seeing you at the Gala dinner in Blackpool to receive your prize.

SBNS CARDIFF MEETING, 30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL 2022



The social aspect of SBNS meetings is something most delegates look forward to at the end of a long day of talks. It gives them opportunity to relax, catch up with friends and colleagues as well as do some networking. Our Welcome reception was held at Techniquest where delegates got the chance to have some fun playing with the gadgets while they were fed and watered.



Morrison Orpheus Choir



Kat Whitehouse
Pulling her weight as usual



Alistair Jenkins
toasting the guests



The Host Cardiff Team



Alistair Jenkins & Claire Nicholson
Always thought he was a slippery character

The setting for the formal Gala Dinner was the famous National Museum of Cardiff where we were privileged to see some beautiful artworks and hear the amazing voices of the Morrison Orpheus Choir. After hearing these gentlemen sing it is easy to see why the Welsh are acknowledged the world over for their beautiful voices. I was moved to tears and I am sure I wasn't the only one. The delicious dinner was followed by prize giving, an amusing speech by Anthony Figaji and dancing. A good night was had by all!



The Cardiff Secretaries
& SBNS Admin Team



Keyoumars Ashan
You can't keep him off the piano!

I won't name the senior members who carried on the evening's entertainment at a nearby night club into the early hours which ended with the predictable kebab, but you know who you are!

A big thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make the meeting a success, especially our hosts at the Cardiff unit, the chairs, speakers, AV company (ESW), the staff at the venues, our sponsors and last but not least all the speakers and delegates.

Recording of Presentations and Photographs
If you missed any of the sessions presented at the Cardiff Meeting or want a second viewing, the recordings are now available via the Talking Slides site.

Simply access the site through the link <https://sbns.talkingslideshd.com> if you have not visited the site before you will need to register using code **SBNSCardiff22**. To view all the photos taken at the meeting click here: [Cardiff Photos](#).

SBNS BLACKPOOL MEETING, 27TH - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022



Our Hosts at the Royal Preston Hospital look forward to welcoming you all to the lovely seaside town of Blackpool this September. This meeting was originally due to take place in September 2020, but for obvious reasons we had to postpone it. On the plus side we are now able to hold the event in the newly built Winter Gardens conference and Exhibition Centre with all its modern facilities. It is situated in the heart of Blackpool next door to the Old Winter Gardens and has easy access to Blackpool North railway station and is a short walk from the main conference hotel, the Imperial. Accommodation is available via our booking agent, InTouch International, at a discounted rate. Full details are on the Conference page.

We are also pleased to announce that the Neurological Society of India (NSI) and The British Association of Spine Surgeons (BASS), will be joining us as invited guests and contributing to the programme which will bring a new and exciting dimension to our meeting.



The Academic Programme will run from lunchtime on Tuesday 27 September (with a Spine meeting run by BASS/SBNS) to lunchtime on Friday. The Life Long Learning session will also be on Spine.

Wednesday afternoon through till lunchtime on Friday 30 September will be the Main SBNS Meeting.

We have had a record number of abstract submissions for this meeting, the majority of which were of a very high standard. Thank you to all who submitted and we look forward to hearing the presentations.

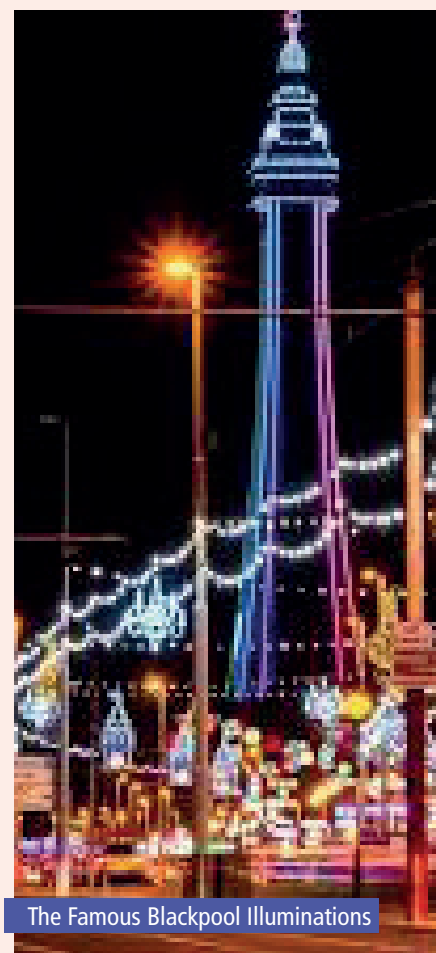
The line-up of guest speakers is also equally impressive, below is a taster, we have many more!

- Marcia Donaldson-Hugh, Consultant at the Host Unit - Victor Horsley Lecture
- Sir Norman Williams, Chair of the National Clinical Improvement Programme (NCIP)
- V. P. Singh, President of the NSI - Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture
- Franco Servadei, Prof. from Italy - Trauma Plenary talk
- Walter Stummer, Prof. from Germany - Oncology Plenary talk
- Shelly Woods, Paralympic Athlete - Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture

As well as an extensive academic programme we also have some wonderful social events planned. On Wednesday evening we have arranged a Welcome Reception in the Spanish Suite which is situated in the original Winter Gardens and is adjoined to the conference

venue. Drinks and a buffet dinner will be served in the Suite and the event is included in your registration fee.

After dinner there is an option to go on a heritage tram ride to see the popular Blackpool Illuminations. Tram tickets can be obtained from the registration desk for a nominal fee of £3, and includes drinks and snacks. The whole evening will be a great opportunity to socialise with colleagues, our invited guests, and more importantly have some fun!



The Famous Blackpool Illuminations

SBNS BLACKPOOL MEETING, 27TH - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022



On Thursday we have a more formal black tie dinner at the famous Tower Ballroom with all its history and grandeur. Strictly Come Dancing fans will need to dust off their dancing shoes/sequins and get practicing as there will be an opportunity to dance on this famous dance floor after dinner.



Tower Ballroom

If you have two left feet (like me), fear not, there will also be a chance for some freestyle Bollywood dancing in honour of our NSI guests. Dinner tickets cost £75 which includes a delicious 3 course dinner, drinks and entertainment.

The registration line is now open - please register early to obtain the early bird rate and book your dinner tickets – this will be a popular event and spaces at the dinner are limited so don't miss out. We are also offering virtual attendance for the whole meeting for those who sadly cannot attend in person. An extensive exhibition will be held throughout the meeting with neurosurgical companies exhibiting their latest products and innovations. Several neuro related charities will also have stands in the exhibition so please take the time to pay a visit to the stands to show your support.

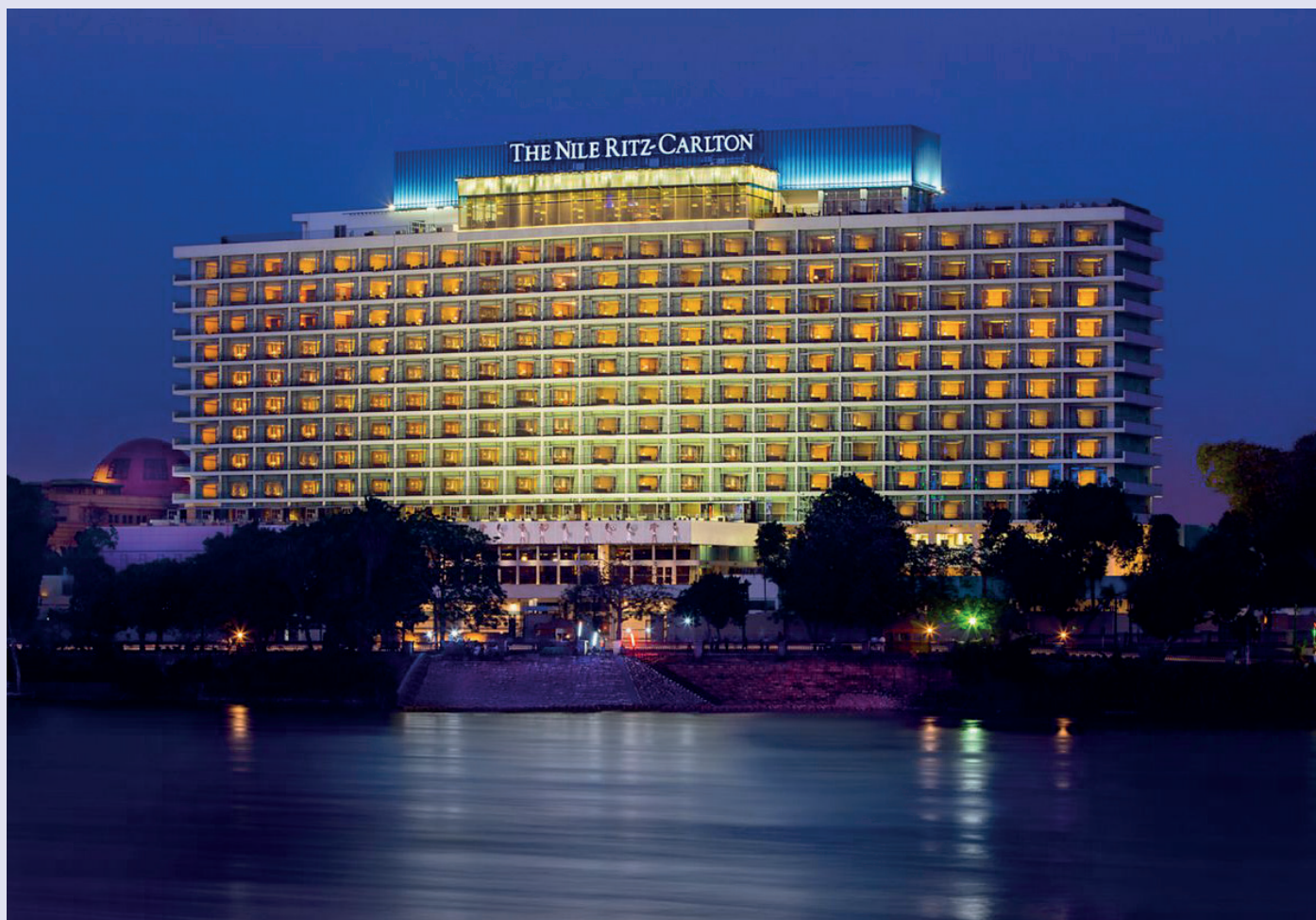
A Conference App will be available for you to download by the end of August. This will include everything you need for the meeting in the lead up to and during the meeting itself whether you are attending in person or virtually.

Please note the SBNS AGM will be held on Thursday 29 September in afternoon at the conference centre. There are some important issues to discuss so please make an effort to attend. The AGM is open to Full and Senior members. The BNTA Business Meeting for Trainees (Associate members) will run in parallel.

The SBNS and our local Hosts look forward to seeing you at the meeting and extending a warm Lancashire welcome to you all.

On behalf of the Hosts & SBNS Meetings Committee: Prof. Peter. Hutchinson,
Suzanne Murray, Alix Gordon & Carole Turner

3RD MEDITERRANEAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS CONGRESS - SBNS ARE INVITED GUESTS!



The Congress President, Prof. Nasser El Ghandour has invited the SBNS to be part of the 3rd Mediterranean Association of Neurological Surgeons (MANS) Congress.

We were first invited back in 2018 when the event was to take place in October 2020, but like everything else it had to be rescheduled. It will now take place 13-15 December 2022 in Cairo, Egypt at the Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel with amazing views across the beautiful River Nile.

The meeting takes place under auspices of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS), Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies (CAANS), Pan-Arab Neurosurgical Society (PANS), Italian Society of Neurosurgery (SiNch), Moroccan Society of Neurosurgery (SMNC) and the Egyptian Society of Neurological Surgeons (ESNS). With so many international Societies taking part it will be an excellent opportunity to showcase British neurosurgery and exchange experiences and knowledge.

The SBNS would like to have a big presence at this meeting and the officers would like to encourage our members to consider submitting abstracts and attend this meeting.

The closing date for abstract submission is **Saturday 15th October 2022**.

For more information about the meeting please visit the conference website <https://mans2022.org/>

Several SBNS Speakers have already been asked to give talks and the SBNS will have a stand at the meeting so please come and say hello!

Suzanne Murray
SBNS Senior Administrator



NANSIG/SBNS CAREERS' DAY, 29TH JANUARY 2022



On Saturday 29th January 2022 in Liverpool, the Neurology and Neurosurgery Interest Group (NANSIG) and the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) held their 11th Annual Neurosurgery Careers Day. The event aimed to inspire medical students and foundation doctors to pursue a career in neurosurgery, provide advice and guidance to get into the specialty, plus give an exciting taster of basic neurosurgical skills.

This year's event marked the return to in-person conferences in a time of a trying pandemic. There was a lot of uncertainty over whether the event would go ahead or if government guidance would change at the last minute, however we were fortunate enough to be joined by over 70 in-person attendees, over 100 virtual attendees, 13 speakers, 5 CV clinic providers and 4 workshop/sponsor demonstrators.

As a regular guest at Careers Day, Mr Alistair Jenkins, President of the SBNS gave us all a welcome introduction, reminiscing on his career and illustrating the importance of good mentors. This thought was echoed throughout the day and tied into Liverpool's own Professor Michael Jenkinson's talk at the end. We were also fortunate to be joined by Professor Paul May who gave us a historical view of neurosurgery in Liverpool. Aside from talks on how to build your portfolio from Mr Ahmad Ali, and week-in-the-life insights from Miss Meriem Amarouche and Mr Andrew Alalade, we also touched upon some important topics, including Miss Kathrin

Whitehouse's incorporating equity, diversity and inclusion in neurosurgery, Professor Peter Hutchinson's global neurosurgery and Mr Richard Ashpole's simulation, with an exclusive look into the latest developments with Rowena simulation technology.

The afternoon session delved into talks on neurosurgeons as lifelong learners, with Mr Kevin Tsang talking through the continuing educational requirements, and Miss Benedetta Pettorini discussing different leadership styles. Another returning guest was Mr Aswin Chari who joined us for another year of discussing his career in research and academia, and recently-published author Mr Jay Jayamohan giving an insightful reflection on his career.



The Careers Day was also an opportunity for delegates to showcase their own research. Congratulations to Shubhi Gupta for their poster entitled **"An Assessment of the Reporting & Methodological Quality of Meningioma Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses"** and to Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Fattah for their oral presentation entitled **"To fuse or not to fuse: the elderly patient with lumbar stenosis and low-grade spondylolisthesis"**.

We want to say a big thank you to all our speakers, CV clinic providers, our helpful volunteers and of course all our attendees for making this event an engaging success. Lastly, we would like to thank our sponsors: Severn Healthcare Technologies, Brainlab, Medtronic, Thieme, Wesleyan, Deep Knowledge Group, University College London (UCL) Neurosurgery MRes course, Neurodesign Ltd, Medical Defence Union (MDU) and European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS).

NANSIG will be running a Workshop **"SBNS/ NANSIG 7th Annual Neurosurgical Skills Course"** during the SBNS Meeting in Blackpool on Tuesday 27th September.

More information is available on the NANSIG website <http://nansig.org/>

Setthasorn Ooi on behalf of the NANSIG Committee

NHS ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL CONSULTANT INFORMATION PROGRAMME (NCIP)

Supporting consultant surgeons with their learning and development

The National Consultant Information Programme (NCIP) was initiated in 2018 to support consultant surgeons with their learning and continuous self-development of their practice. NCIP's aim is to support clinical quality improvement for the benefit of patients.

NCIP Portal
Online Portal for Consultant Learning

NCIP provides a secure online portal to NHS consultants with a single point of access to their individual outcomes data. It allows them to review their clinical activity and patient outcomes against local and national benchmarks to improve patient safety, support quality improvement, and provide evidence during clinical appraisal and revalidation.

NCIP has developed high quality metrics working with specialty associations and specialty leads, like our NCIP Clinical Lead for Neurosurgery, Mr Nick Phillips, a consultant at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Vice President of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, Lead of the Neurosurgical National Audit Programme and Council member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Nick is also the Clinical Lead for the Getting It Right First Time Programme (GIRFT).

Contact the [NCIP implementation team](#) to find out more.



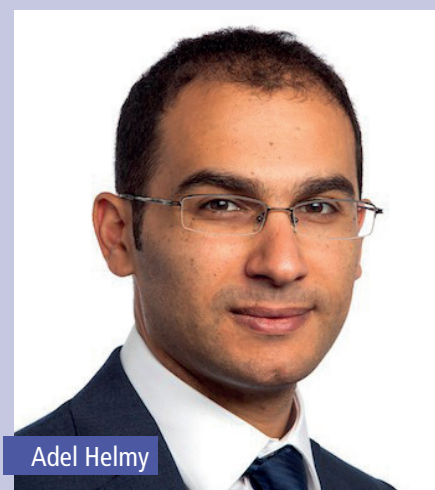
SBNS NATIONAL NEUROSURGICAL AUDIT PROGRAMME (NNAP)

As highlighted above, the National Consultant Information Portal will be going live this year in neurosurgery. This will provide surgeon level data across a wide range of surgical specialities. Given the leadership of Sir Norman Williams and Mr Nick Phillips, it is likely to provide a watershed moment in the provision of high quality clinical data directly to individual surgeons.

Where in previous years, NNAP has led with mortality data, NCIP has followed with a range of HES-derived metrics. As a result the NNAP is currently in a state of evolution from simply providing mortality data. Given the large amount of data that will become available, the importance of accurate interpretation has become all the more important.

The NNAP has been working across a range of areas that complement NCIP and the work of the SBNS including:

- A** Risk adjustment models to account for variation in case mix
- B** Identifying regional variations in neurosurgical resource provision
- C** Analysis of referral patterns to neurosurgical services and trends over time
- D** Defining Core Outcomes that contain the metrics most relevant to surgeons in their given sub-specialties



Adel Helmy

Ultimately, the work of the NNAP aims to provide the data that will shape decisions on neurosurgical service provision for the coming years.

Adel Helmy
National Neurosurgical Audit Programme

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME FOR SURGEONS (FLP) 2022



Ciaran Hill



David Eagle

Congratulations to Ciaran Hill from UCLH and David Eagle from Sheffield, who were up against stiff competition for The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Future Leaders Programme starting next month. They will join post CCT fellows and early year's consultants from different surgical specialties. Over the year long programme they will work on an educational project to develop leadership skills.

The SBNS are funding David and Ciaran who will work on an educational project which will be of benefit to our society. Participants will also: have the capacity to create long-lasting clinical improvement/change or cost saving; have help to demonstrate their abilities as leaders and educators; and will be able to build career long networks. Anyone interested in learning more about the programme can [access here](#). We will look forward to hearing more about it from Ciaran and David towards the end of the programme next year.

The SBNS would like to thank Lisa Hadfield Law, Surgical Educationalist for all her help with this project.

EBRAIN UPDATES FOR SUMMER 2022

ebrain

An e-learning resource supporting training in the clinical neurosciences



If you haven't already discovered it, ebrain has an exciting podcast series called Brain Talk. In Brain Talk, ebrain's Adrian Wills interviews leading figures in neuroscience. They discuss their major influences, career defining moments and greatest challenges. The latest episode is with Joint Neurosciences Council Patron, Baroness Susan Greenfield. Susan Greenfield is a neuroscientist, writer and broadcaster who has published over 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She

studied for her undergraduate and doctoral degrees at Oxford University, and then held research fellowships at the College de France in Paris, NYU Medical Center in New York and at Melbourne University. She has written many books on the brain and mind, including the best-selling 'The Human Brain: A Guided Tour' (1997), 'The Private Life of the Brain' (2000) and 'A Day in the Life of the Brain: Consciousness from Dawn 'til Dusk' (2016). She was made a CBE in 2000 and is

a member of the House of Lords.

You can listen to this episode and others through the [ebrain website](#).

If you would like to hear from ebrain by email, please sign up to the newsletter and other updates [here](#).

Please note access to ebrain is Free for all paid up SBNS Members!

[Donna Cole, E-brain Admin](#)

SAC OPEN DAY, 17TH JUNE 2022

Many thanks to the 80 or so attendees who came to the SAC open day meeting on 17th June, given the size of our specialty, the numbers attending really highlight the commitment that so many of us have to training. It is inspiring and I believe it sets us apart. As last year, we focussed on only the four most important themes.

In the morning Mr Tsang updated us on the way that JCST and the SACs quality assure



the Neurosurgery training programmes. Data about on call supervision in particular was reassuring, some other metrics however were less impressive. There is on-going concern about access to operative training as it appears that operative numbers have not completely recovered post-COVID. The consequences will become more and more apparent in years to come. This is a growing and multi-specialty problem, and Professor Chelvarajah updated us on logbook developments, whilst Mr Saxena, Mr Solanki and Miss Whitehouse updated us on the ST1, ST3 and ST7 training camps. Many thanks to all of these and to Mr MacArthur for chairing the morning session.

In the afternoon we started by discussing national selection and the always difficult topic of workforce planning. Miss Whitehouse presented the 2022 workforce survey. The data is incredibly interesting, detailed and useful, it will be published in due course. We still have a problem with too many trainees in training and too many post CCT doctors with no consultant posts. In particular it is notable

that the number of new consultant posts has fallen when compared to previous years but the overall situation appears, at worst, similar to previous years. The predictions that have previously been made about a surfeit of post CCT doctors until about 2028 still seem accurate, after that we need to be cautious to avoid a deficit. Recruitment numbers are expected therefore to remain broadly constant for the foreseeable future.

The final session of the day was on Surgical Care Practitioners (SCP), Advanced Clinical Practitioners and Physician Associates. The SCP curriculum has been developed but not quite published. We are looking forward to its publication and implementation. As with last year, this format seems to work very well and it seems likely that we will continue presenting our work back to the Neurosurgery community in this way in future years. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to prioritise training, we are good at it, let's keep it that way!

Simon Thompson
SAC Chair

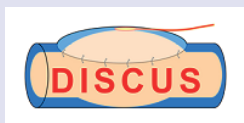


SAC face to face meeting in February at the Royal College of Surgeons England's newly refurbished library

CLINICAL TRIALS UPDATE: A SPOTLIGHT ON DISCUS, DENS, CARE AND MAST



This month we focus on four clinical trials. As individuals we make management decisions based on the best available evidence, personal experience, and patient preference. Trials that test a new hypothesis (DISCUS), that have several treatment options (CARE) or timings (MAST) or that have patients who are managed outside neurosurgical centres (DENS) all pose challenges for recruitment and successful delivery to improve patient care and outcomes. All these trials would benefit from a major recruitment push to answer the important clinical management questions. Neurosurgeons – we need you!



DISCUS DUROPLASTY FOR INJURED CERVICAL SPINAL CORD WITH UNCONTROLLED SWELLING

Primary question: Does the addition of duroplasty to bony decompression improve outcome after spinal cord injury?

Which patients to recruit: Adults (>=16 years) with severe (ASIA A-C) traumatic cervical (C2-T1) spinal cord injury operated on within 72 hours of injury

Sites open: Neurosurgery at St George's, Leeds, King's, Imperial, Glasgow, Royal London, Rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville, Stanmore, Glasgow

Number recruited: 8

Target needed to recruit: 222 over 4 years. We estimate 3 patients per site per year. Several new sites about to open in UK and EU.

Website: <https://discus.octru.ox.ac.uk/welcome-discus-trial>

Contact: mpapadop@sgul.ac.uk, ssaadoun@sgul.ac.uk

Any common themes across sites with recruitment: A keen neurosurgical trainee as associate PI is essential



DENS DURATION OF EXTERNAL NECK STABILISATION

Research question: In older or frail patients with a new odontoid fracture, do patients managed without a hard collar report better quality of life (measured with EQ 5D 5L) at 12 weeks, compared to patients managed in a collar.

Which patients to recruit: Adults >65, with clinical frailty score less than 5, with a new odontoid fracture where the spinal surgeons assess that the patient can be managed with or without a collar. Recruited up to 3 weeks from injury

Sites open: 15 | **Number recruited:** 22

Target needed to recruit: 887 in total. 2-3 patients / month / site

Any common themes across sites with recruitment: pressure on research nurses - big push needed to open sites ready for winter. Some sites displaying loss of equipoise in that patients are being allowed to remove collar as standard car.

CLINICAL TRIALS UPDATE: A SPOTLIGHT ON DISCUS, DENS, CARE AND MAST



CARE

THE CAVERNOMAS: A RANDOMISED EFFECTIVENESS (CARE) FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PILOT PHASE RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Primary question: Does treatment with neurosurgery or stereotactic radiosurgery improve outcome, compared to treatment without surgery, for people with symptomatic brain cavernoma?

Which patients to recruit: People of any age with at least one brain cavernoma diagnosed by MRI that has been symptomatic

Sites open: 21 sites open across Scotland, Wales and England. We need to open at least 30 sites, so we are very keen to activate another 9 sites.

Number recruited: 19 participants have been randomised, less than half of the number that should have been recruited by now (n=40). Target needed to recruit: 222 over 4 years. We estimate 3 patients per site per year. Several new sites about to open in UK and EU.

Target needed to recruit: We need sites to recruit at least two patients per week between now and the end of November for us to attain our target of 60 participants randomised.

Any common themes across sites with recruitment: There is evidence that numbers of participants may be further boosted by (1) widening the proportion of patients presenting with a symptomatic brain cavernoma approached for a conversation about the CARE study (recruiters should minimise exclusion of clinically eligible patients on the assumption that intervention is not appropriate or that the patient will not be in equipoise) and (2) optimising conversations between recruiters and patients about participation.

Please refer to the [CARE study website FAQs](#) for our recruitment top tips.



MAST

ANTI-EPILEPTIC DRUG USE POST TBI

Research question: What is the best practice in the use of anti-epileptic drugs for TBI patients?

Which patients to recruit: MAST Prophylaxis - patients ≥ 10 yrs with a TBI but without a seizure, managed in an NSU, MAST Duration – patients ≥ 10 yrs with a TBI who have been started on an AED due to an acute symptomatic seizure

Sites open: 14 | **Number recruited:** MAST Prophylaxis – 216, MAST Duration – 53

Target needed to recruit: MAST Prophylaxis – 1221, MAST Duration - 428

Any common themes across sites with recruitment: pressure on research nurses and need an enthusiastic associate PI at all sites. Please ensure that patients are not prescribed prophylactic AEDs prior to screening.

Website: <https://masttrial.org/>

Contacts: edoardo.viaroli@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ashley.foster@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

AND FINALLY...

Due to the Covid pandemic many trials are recruiting behind target and will need an extension. For example, the SCIL trial (SC IL-1Ra in SAH study) has recruited ~400 of the planned 800 patients over 2.5 years with 1.5 years remaining. Some UK sites have stopped recruiting and plan to close before the trial has finished as they reached their pre-agreed number of participants. Target numbers for recruitment are determined based on local caseload and estimated consent rate. Targets are not intended to be an end goal and we rely on good recruiting sites to exceed their target. We would urge the good recruiting sites to stay open and recruit above their target number. Indeed any additional recruitment will result in more money in the local CRN fund which should aid in providing further nursing support. The sooner we achieve the overall trial recruitment number, the sooner the trial is off the portfolio and resources can be directed elsewhere.

Michael Jenkinson, SBNS Academic Chair and
Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager

THE INTERNATIONAL BNA 2023 FESTIVAL OF NEUROSCIENCE



The SBNS will be taking part in the BNA 2023 Festival of Neuroscience in Brighton next 23-26 April 2022 and members of the SBNS Academic Committee will be running a workshop on: **Obtaining and using living human brain tissue for translational research-hype, hope or hassle?** Please mark your diaries and come along to support them and all the other neurological societies taking part.

[Click here](#) for more detailst

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SBNS MEETINGS

SBNS Autumn Meeting - BLACKPOOL
27th - 30th September 2022



SBNS Spring Meeting - CORK
29th - 31st March 2023
Abstract line opening October 2022

British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) Meeting - LEEDS
24th - 25th November 2022

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

EANS Congress
16th - 20th October 2022
Belgrade, Serbia

3rd MANS Congress 2022
13th - 15th December 2022
Cairo, Egypt
In collaboration with the SBNS & the Egyptian Society of Neurosurgeons

British Neuroscience Association (BNA) 2023
23rd - 26th April 2023
Brighton

18th World Congress of Neurosurgery
6th - 11th December 2023
Cape Town, South Africa

Details for the above meetings and various other meetings and courses please visit the Conference pages on and [Dates for your Diary Section](#) on the SBNS website

The SBNS Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS colleagues. Contributions are welcome for the next issue due out in January 2023, content will be required by November 2022. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.

AESCLAP ACADEMIA NEUROSURGERY EVENTS



Liverpool Paediatric Neurosurgery Masterclass
Thursday 15th and Friday 16th September
Hilton Liverpool City Centre

British Neuroendoscopy Society Meeting (BNES)
Friday 16th September
Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford

Mastering the Art of Neurosurgical On-Call
Saturday 8th October
University of Glasgow

Prevention and Management of Neurosurgical Complications
Friday 25th November
The Walton Centre, Liverpool

British Neurosurgical Research Group Meeting (BNRG)
Thursday 24th and Friday 25th November
Hilton Leeds City

Neurosurgical Innovation and Technology Symposium
Saturday 26th November
Hilton Leeds City

British Skull Base Society Meeting (BSBS)
Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January
Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

 academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com

 +44 (0)114 225 9196



Click or scan



@academia_uk



@AesculapAcademy



See more. Stand tall. Aesculap Aeos® - Digital Surgical Microscope

Challenges of the current technology:

Vision



Small depth of field
and field of view

Pain



Neck and back
pain

Workflow



Teamwork and
teaching difficult

Are you excited to rethink your microscope?

Join the future of digital surgical microscopy with a platform that combines the ergonomic and educational benefits typically found in 'exoscopes' with the high-quality imaging and fluorescence capabilities of traditional optical microscopes.

We look forward to seeing you at the SBNS meeting.
Visit us at **Stand 8** to experience how Aesculap Aeos®
can help you see more and stand tall.