

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SOCIETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS



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Newsletter December 2022

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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A Message from the President



Peter Whitfield, SBNS President

Dear friends,

It is a real privilege to write my first newsletter article as SBNS president. I wish to sincerely thank Alistair Jenkins for his hard work and dedication over many years. He helmed the SBNS during the headwinds of the Covid pandemic and, amongst other achievements, helped the society deliver a successful online conference and then enjoy the camaraderie of F2F meetings in Dundee, Cardiff and most recently Blackpool.

The meeting in Blackpool was a great success. We were delighted to host members of the Neurological Society of India and BASS. Their contributions to the conference were outstanding and I am sure some long lasting friendships were nurtured. The increased number of guest speakers, alongside scientific presentations, including short oral poster sessions, has been well received. Plenary talks by Marcia Donaldson-Hugh, Sir Norman Williams, V.P. Singh, Franco Servadei, Walter Stummer, and the amazing, Paralympic athlete, Shelly Woods, informed and enthralled us. Our meetings secretary, Peter Hutchinson is refining plans for our next meeting in Cork and the Autumn 2023 meeting at Twickenham. Themes we plan to explore at forthcoming meetings include human factors and mild traumatic brain injuries. The SBNS will celebrate its centenary in 2026. A celebration Neurolympics

meeting is being developed with invites for participation from others specialties within Clinical Neuroscience. I anticipate this being a major milestone in the history of neurosurgery and ask you to support it in due course when we have more detailed information. If you have ideas on how we can make the conferences work even better please do get in touch.

We recently sent members the results of the "name change" ballot. A significant majority of those who voted supported retaining the Society of British Neurological Surgeons as our name. Thank you to all who voted.

Currently, the political landscape affects our professional and personal lives more than at any time I can recall. Staffing shortages are compromising the delivery of care in the hospitals and the community. Ambulances queue outside emergency departments and waiting times for clinics and operations are increasing. Industrial action by health workers appears inevitable (and may well have commenced by the time you read this). The NHS appears to be on the brink of a medicolegal precipice due to delays in diagnosis and treatment. All of these events, and others, can cause immense stress. Our values and behaviours may be tested, particularly if the concept of industrial action in the healthcare sector seems alien. As surgeons and leaders in the NHS it behoves us to continue to deliver high quality care to our patients while providing support and guidance to our colleagues. I encourage all SBNS members to look out for and support colleagues who may be struggling through difficult times. I am keen to try and establish a Peer Support system so that those who wish to discuss difficulties can do so in a confidential manner with an independent peer. This is in embryonic form at the moment and if there is anyone with expertise in this area please do get in touch.

I recently attended an engaging and extremely enlightening talk on Climate Change by Hugh Montgomery, Professor

of Intensive Care Medicine at UCHL. I was astounded by the magnitude of the challenges we hear about on the news, but perhaps think these are for others to solve. The RCS has responded to the crisis with an important green surgery initiative. Mr Raghu Vindlacheruvu attended the first meeting and was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable when he presented the scale of the issue to Council: the operating theatre is apparently responsible for around 25% of a Hospital's carbon waste with an average operation contributing the same carbon foot print as driving from London to Edinburgh.

Professor Nihal Gurusinge has been our NICE lead for many years. He meticulously reviews NICE guidance during the consultation phase and alerts the SBNS to relevant issues. Nihal arranged meetings with NICE prior to the publication of the new Subarachnoid Haemorrhage guideline. The SBNS and BNVG expressed reservations and concerns about the wording in relation to the requirement for a LP after a very early (within 6 hours of ictus) normal CT head scan and about the use of nimodipine. Our statement supports the use of an LP for diagnostic certainty and the use of nimodipine to minimise the risk of delayed ischaemic deficits. TBI Nice Guidelines are also under discussion.

We all have memories, I hope most of them fond, of training. Trainees are an incredible tour de force that stimulate, generate ideas and help the specialty develop alongside the delivery of patient care. Trainees have long been of key importance in helping run and recruit to clinical trials. The NIHR have an Associate Principal Investigator scheme that helps recognise trainees who wish to develop their skills in Clinical Trials. An unfortunate consequence of Covid was the difficulty encountered in recruiting to clinical trials. Chief and Principal Investigators are keen for recruitment to resume to ensure important research questions can be answered. The recruitment of just one or two patients a

month in a unit makes a difference to the prospects of a successful trial. Please help in whatever way you can.

As many of you know, Alistair was, and remains, keen to develop SBNS involvement in Global Neurosurgery. I strongly support us developing this initiative given the post-Covid relaxation of travel restrictions. A small working group of Council members, chaired by Nigel Mendoza in his new role as SBNS Vice President for Global Neurosurgery, is exploring how we can develop and support reciprocal travel exchanges between LMIC and the UK and Ireland. We think that there are many potential mutual benefits in supporting such exchange experiences. We are interested to know if any senior trainees would be keen to pilot such exchanges. If so, please let us know. Furthermore, we are keen to support Global Neurosurgery research where the potential for small low-cost improvements may result in significant patient benefit. We are lucky to have Peter Hutchinson's expertise and commitment to enable us to optimise our uptake of opportunities in this arena.

Finally, trainee operating numbers have been hit hard in the aftermath of Covid. Please look at all potential training opportunities, particularly in the operating theatre, and help our successors learn their craft. Working with the BNTA and Nitin Mukerji, Editor in Chief of the British Journal of Neurosurgery, I hope that we can establish some podcasts on "How I do: tips and tricks". The BNTA may be seeking volunteers to contribute to the project!

I hope that you have, or have had, some time to relax with friends and family over Christmas and the New Year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next couple of years.

Prof. Peter Whitfield

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

Welcome New Members

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

Full

Mohamed Ansar	Preston
Neil Barua	Bristol
Nicholas Carleton-Bland	Liverpool
Benjamin Fisher	Birmingham
Ciaran Hill	London
Bilal Mirza	Sheffield
Stuart Roberts	London

Associate

Ahmed Abougamil	London
James Clerkin	Cork
Mohamed Elmolla	Liverpool
Prajwal Ghimire	London
Sujit Gnanakumar	Belfast
Aimee Goel	West Midlands
Shumalia Hasan	London
Alistair Lawrence	London
Dominic Mahoney	Plymouth
Sophie Mullins	Plymouth
Marco Paris	London
Sanjaya Perera	Birmingham
Sumeet Sasane	Hull
Euan Strachan	Southampton
Ken To	Cambridge
Damjan Veljanoski	Plymouth

Affiliated

Saima Ahmed	Nottingham
Lawrence Best	Oxford
Vassili Crisp	Leeds
Laasya Dwarakanath	Birmingham
Mohamed Elhendawy	Hull
Bryony Ford	Oxford
Jonathan Funnell	London
Felix Jozsa	London
Kenneth Kalyango	Hull
Cathal Lee	Cork
Latif Miah	Wales
Josh Moreau	Bristol
Sana Riaz	Nottingham
Marwa Saad	Cambridge
Caroline Scott	Dundee
Jack Sheppard	Wales

Senior

Tim Piggott	Liverpool
Ian Pople	Bristol

International

Deepak Agrawal	India
Mujahid Alizada	China
Pashupatinath Mishra	India
Krisztina Schmidt	France

New Appointments



Surajit Basu – SBNS Treasurer – January 2023 -2027

“It will be a pleasure and honour to serve the United Kingdom and Ireland neurosurgery community as Treasurer of the SBNS. I am grateful to the membership for electing me to the post. I have been a council member and currently represent SBNS in CORESS advisory panel. I am looking forward to my new role. I promise to keep the books balanced and add to the voice of the membership into the executive council.”

Surajit is based at in Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust. He is also a member of the Intercollegiate Fellowship Examination Board, the Joint Clinical Lead, Midland Neurosurgery Operation Delivery Network and member of the specialist advisory board of CORESS.



Nigel Mendoza – Vice President October 2022 - 2024

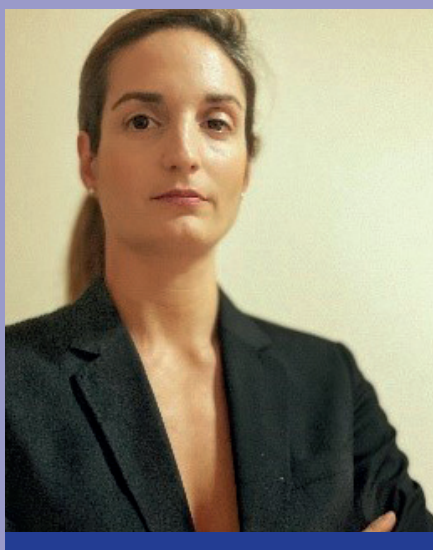
It is a great honour and privilege to have been asked to become Vice President of the SBNS with a remit for Global affairs. The aim of this is to consider how the SBNS may help with the inequalities of neurosurgical care in Middle and Low income countries, specifically with regards to research, education and training. This may provide the opportunity for bilateral exchanges of neurosurgical trainees. The NIHR and the Royal College of Surgeons in the UK have established projects so I look forward to working with the President, Professor Peter Whitfield, Professor Peter Hutchinson, Mr Simon Thomson, Mr Alistair Jenkins, and Ms Marina Pitsika (BNTA representative on council) to formulate a plan of action in the months to come. Please can I encourage any consultant or young trainee neurosurgeon who have ideas to contact me directly.



Donald Macarthur – SAC Chair February 2023

Donald has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Honorary Associate Professor in Nottingham since 2003 and specialises in paediatrics, oncology and hydrocephalus. He is a former Chairman of the British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group and is currently the Secretary to The Neurosurgery National Selection Board. Away from work, he runs, climbs and plays saxophone in a couple of bands.

“The SACs roles are to ensure that trainees experience high quality training across the country with a syllabus and curriculum that is relevant and an assessment system that is fair. Over the last few years and particularly in the COVID era we have seen challenges for training at a time when increasing use of virtual processes may have distanced trainees from the SAC. My principal aims in the next 3 years are to reconnect trainees with the SAC via its network of Liaison members whilst the new Curriculum and MCR assessments are adopted.”



Marina Pitsika - BNTA Chair – October 2022-2024

I am an ST6 in Neurosurgery in the North East of England with an interest in paediatric neurosurgery. Prior to entering neurosurgical training, I graduated from the Medical School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, completed the Foundation Years and the Core Surgical Training in the Southwest of UK, and followed by a year of research in paediatric neurosurgery at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. I have been in the British Neurosurgery Trainee Association committee for 2 years prior to being elected as Chair in October 2022 and have been the trainee representative for Ebrain since March 2022. Recently I completed an MSc in Strategic Leadership in Public Services at the University of Northumbria, with a distinction, and I am currently working towards a Level 7 chartership with the Chartered Management Institute. In my free time I travel and surf.

NNAP FELLOW



Daniel Thompson

I am currently one of the Bristol based Neurosurgical trainees and will be commencing the Fellowship this coming August. I am passionate about the work that the NNAP is doing and believe that a robust, data driven approach to quality improvement will help enhance the development of our specialty.

Outside of Neurosurgery I am a mostly dedicated father and a consistent sports fanatic. A lifelong tortuous relationship with Newcastle United has helped me develop the necessary resilience for my future career as a Neurosurgeon. I will be hoping to channel the spirit of Eddie Howe in growing the NNAP from strength to strength.

Sad Farewell



Michael Fitzpatrick - November 2022

Michael Fitzpatrick graduated from Glasgow University Medical School in 1989. He enjoyed basic surgical and Neurosurgical training in the West of Scotland, which included an MD thesis on trauma and the axolemma. He was appointed as a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh in 2003. He pursued his interests in head Injury and Trigeminal Neuralgia and enjoyed the role of Training Programme Director early in his consultant career. But he excelled as Clinical Director of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, taking on the role in 2009 until his recent retirement. Mike led the expansion of the unit from 7 to 12 Consultant Neurosurgeons, expanded the Neurology and Stroke services, and enabled the Departmental move to the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in the midst of Covid, in the summer of 2020. His management style, based on honesty, humility, humour and pragmatism, made him a much loved and respected colleague. He leaves his wife Julie, daughters Claire and Laura and his beloved Celtic Football Club. He will be sorely missed.

Patrick Statham



John Turner - August 2022

John Turner passed away on 29 August at the age of 90, surviving 38 years after suffering an MI during clipping of an aneurysm. His beloved wife Audrey died 13 years ago and he is survived by his son, Simon and daughter Susan.

John had a long and successful career in Neurosurgery. He trained in Edinburgh under Prof. Norman Dott and Francis Gillingham and later completed fellowships in the USA at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix and Columbia University in New York. He returned to Scotland and was appointed to the Institute of Neurological Sciences, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. His particular interests were, Stereotactic Neurosurgery and Deep Brain Stimulation.

David Hendry (Son-in Law)



James Kellerman – August 2022

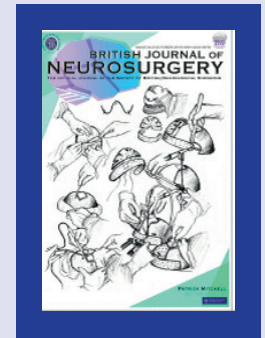
James Kellerman was a driving force and a huge personality in East London Neurosurgery and his sudden death during an active retirement leaves a large group of family, friends and colleagues with a sense of acute loss. Raised in North Essex, he came to medicine via a Pharmacology degree, and trained at the London and Brook hospitals. His aptitude for the technical and decision-making challenges of neurosurgery drew him particularly to spinal surgery where his judgment and skill were highly valued at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford (now Queens Hospital) and also over the 20 years that followed in private and medicolegal practice. He was among the group who were key to the transition of the Romford unit to its secure footing from early days as one of the smaller foundations. He was inquisitive, challenging of convention and a source of inspiration to countless Neurosurgical trainees. Outside work, he was an experienced glider pilot and trainer. He was unfailingly great company.

Jonathan Pollock

British Journal of Neurosurgery

The BJNS remains on an upward path. Sincere thanks are due to all the associate editors and reviewers up and down the country and beyond who help out – the journal would not be where it is without you. The Social Media Committee, which is led by two consultant neurosurgeons who supervise two trainees and a medical student, does a stellar job of the Twitter and LinkedIn pages and journal articles that are promoted have open access for the month.

The BJNS recently advertised for a fellow to join the editorial and production team for six months to gain some understanding of the editorial process with a view to eventually becoming an Associate Editor in the future. After a very competitive round of interviews we appointed two fellows, Rory and Simon and we hope to repeat the process. Congratulations to Rory and Simon!



Nitin Mukerji
Editor of BJN



Rory Piper

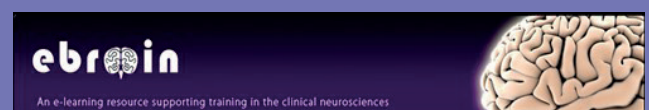
"I am a neurosurgery registrar at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and currently I am a Lewis-Spitz Surgeon-Scientist PhD candidate at the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health. My research applies brain connectomics to inform surgical strategies for children with drug-resistant epilepsy and I am the trial fellow on a clinical trial of deep brain stimulation to treat children with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. I am very grateful to have been selected to be a British Journal of Neurosurgery Fellow and I am hoping to use this role to provide further opportunities for UK neurosurgical trainees to engage with the journal".



Simon Lammy

"I am a post-FRCS ST8 neurosurgical SpR at the Institute of Neurological Sciences and Neuro Oncology Research Fellow at the Institute of Cancer Sciences at the University of Glasgow. My PhD registration and research is into patterns of glioblastoma recurrence under Professor Chalmers. I am a Tessa Jowell Brain MATRIX NIHR Associate PI and currently a faculty tutor in critical care (START and CCrisP) and an associate surgical specialty lead in neurosurgery at the RCSeng and Managed Services Network in Neurosurgery committee member. Previous academic accomplishments include publishing the 2nd and 3rd Edition of Surgical Critical Care for the MRCS OSCE and over 40 papers and 40 presentations. This role of being a British Journal of Neurosurgery (BJNS) fellow grants an opportunity to learn editorial leadership expertise. This builds on experience as editor of The Bell magazine in medical school, editorial expertise on the London Medical Student newspaper and the Cheesegrater"

The ebrain website has undergone a complete redesign, including an upgrade of the Moodle platform to the latest stable version. The redesign has focussed mainly on design and stability, as well as merging all content from the original ebrain website, together with the learning platform, to create one entry point for our users.



Another focus of the redesign was usability of the site, particularly concerning the search function. This has now been upgraded so that content can be found (not only by session title, which originally was case-sensitive), but also by keywords. We plan to develop this further by adding a list of keywords to each session description so that sessions can be filtered by specific content contained within the learning modules.

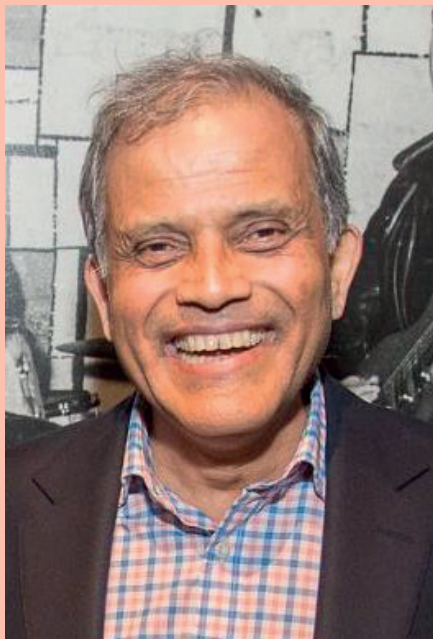
We have created a series of podcasts for the website (called Brain Talk) where Clinical lead Adrian Wills interviews renowned individuals from the world of neuroscience. They discuss their major influences, career defining moments and greatest challenges. So far, the podcasts have featured JNC Patron, Baroness Susan Greenfield, Neurosurgeon Henry Marsh, Neuro-Intensivist Eelco Wijdicks, Professor Helen Cross and Adrian has just interviewed Karren Brady. We have also started 'Patient's Stories' – with interviews with Ian Flatt who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and Murray Goulder, who developed epilepsy at the age of 16. He is an enthusiastic supporter of and contributor to Epilepsy Action.

An on demand question bank is also being developed.

Ebrain is free for all SBNS members. Please get a login if you don't have one and use this fantastic resource.

Devkota Bursary

The Late Prof Upendra Devkota, who trained in the UK and was a member of the SBNS, was honoured after his death with the establishment of a bursary in his name. The bursary was to allow young neurosurgeons from Nepal to visit the UK for a short observership. Dev, as he was fondly known by his colleagues, was regarded as the father of modern Neurosurgery in Nepal.



Three young Nepalese Neurosurgeons were selected to receive a bursary of £5,000 each to visit a UK unit for a 6 week observership and to attend the SBNS Blackpool meeting. As per their interests they were offered places in three UK units: Pratyush Shrestha in Leeds General Infirmary hosted by Simon Thomson, Sagar Koirala in Addenbrookes, Cambridge, hosted by Peter Hutchinson and Rajan Kumar Sharma – Royal Preston Hospital, hosted by Nihal Gurusingham. Unfortunately, due to visa problems, Rajan was unable to travel and will be hopefully returning in 2023.

This is a report of their visits.



Pratyush Shrestha

My experience at Leeds General Infirmary

Mr Thompson, my mentor, had made wonderful arrangements in the Leeds General Infirmary for me. All consultants knew about my visit and welcomed me to observe their cases, were open for discussion and teaching, whenever possible. Occupation health requirements were also properly sorted out and I could immediately start observing on reaching Leeds, from 22nd of August. My accommodation at the Premier Inn was comfortable and convenient, a five-minute walk to the hospital.

We started at 7:45 am with handover meet where the recent admissions and consultations were discussed which gave me a good overview of the management of acute cases, the electives that were to follow and the complications/ immediate outcomes of the operative cases I observed. As per my interest, Mr Thompson had assigned me to observe High grade tumours theatre on Monday and Friday, low grades on Tuesday. Wednesdays, we had a class after the handover and a Multi-disciplinary team meetings followed by outpatient clinics. Thursdays I was free to observe the adult OTs 5, 6, 7 or the paediatric (Moynihan) theatre.

Having completed my Neurosurgery training in 2016 under Late Prof Devkota, I initially worked under him and as an independent Neurosurgeon, following his

demise, in the same hospital. During my observership in Leeds I got a good flavour of British neurosurgical practices and inputs from multiple skilled, caring and expert consultants.

After the handover meet, I attended the team huddle in the operating theatre, then did rounds in the adult and paediatric Neurosurgery wards with residents. Mohammed 'Mo' was extremely helpful and so were Neeraj, Rohit, Howrah, Fozia, Lizzie, Emeka, Will, Craig, Sandra, Alex, Rashid, James, Chloe, Vasilli (the list is exhaustive). I never felt away from home and it was easy to get along and ask them about patients, procedures, directions... anything!

With Mr Thompson and Mr Corns I observed high grade tumours being done rapidly and sleekly with very short hospital admission days as postoperative radiotherapy was the focus. With Mr Phillips, I observed endo-nasal pituitary surgeries (what we will upgrade to soon at our centre; we still do sub-labial transphenoidal) and thermocoagulation for Trigeminal Neuralgia. In one of the classes, Mr Phillips shared with us his experiences in Sapporo and neurosurgical training in Japan. I observed Mr Deniz beautifully clip a Posterior communicating artery aneurysm through supra-ciliary keyhole approach. It was interesting to see Mr Chumas operate on an insular glioma, awake craniotomy, and see him assess that the patient post op to have had no deficits. I admired the paediatric consultants Mr Tyagi, Mr Goodden and Mr Shivakumar's meticulous dissection in various low grade tumours; saw them use intra-operative MRI. I made a thorough note of how Mr Goodden did a selective dorsal rhizotomy on a patient with diplegic cerebral palsy. The Neuro-physiologists were happy to explain the minute details how the low-firing rootlets were identified. I came across four different Neuro-physiologists, Kamalnarayan was one, and all of them were extremely

knowledgeable and I really appreciated how they helped the neurosurgeons during the operations. Mr Shivakumar took me through a beautiful anatomical dissection of temporal lobectomy, amygdalo-hippocampectomy and observing Mr Tyagi operate on tethered cord with pain-staking excision of the lipomatous tissue are beyond my words. Once I walked out of the operating theatre at 9pm; but mostly the theatres would finish by five or six. I felt cared for as the consultants would take time to discuss with me the crucial steps as well ask me how some common steps would be done back home in Nepal.

The out-patient clinics on Wednesday afternoons were different from what we have here in Nepal nevertheless equally interesting where I observed Mr Thomson and other consultants break bad news, counsel good and bad outcomes, the responses from the patients and their family. At times when we would be waiting for patients, Mr Thomson would discuss on various aspects of neurosurgery- the cervical posterior lamino-foraminotomy, advances in Onco-neurosurgery, use of steroids, his experiences and I really appreciated the time when we just discussed. Mr Thomson also arranged for me to visit the gamma-knife unit in St James' Hospital with Dr Hatfield where I observed two patients in frame and one in mask being treated for brain metastasis. Mr Hatfield and the technicians in one day clarified so much of what I just had theoretical knowledge of.

Apart from this I also appreciated the latest technologies in the operating theatre. The Kinevo Zeiss microscope integrating the images from the brain lab to give us further information on our extent of resection, laser-focus, fluorescent screen (with Mr Seikh, to differentiate the malignant and normal brain). Neuro-monitoring with evoked EMG on suction probe (with Mr Narayanmurthy, deciding thickness of tissue by altering the current),

the upgraded versions of the Ojemann stimulator, CUSA. The intra-operative use of ultrasound to tell us the extent of resection and also the doppler probe in vascular surgery. The Consultants choice of various Rhoton dissectors, the endoscopes and the micro-debrider, intra-operative MRI a few to name now.

Having trained under a single neurosurgeon, late Prof Upendra Devkota, this was a life time experience for me, getting to learn from different expert consultants, residents, theatre staff, OPD nurses, Neuro-physiologists at the Leeds General Infirmary. In this very short-period I believe I have made friendly ties with Mr Thomson and the Neurosurgery team as well as the residents and hopefully we have residents from Leeds visit our centre in Nepal for short durations (maybe three months) in the years to come which would benefit both the residents and our institute in Nepal (had some preliminary discussions with Mr Thomson when he drove me to the SBNS conference in Blackpool from Leeds, on 26th of September.)

I would like to thank the Leeds General Infirmary, administration and the Neurosurgery team, specially Mr Simon Thomson and the SBNS for this wonderful learning experience from the inner-core of my heart and I am sure with this experience I can impart better services to my needy country-men here in Nepal.



Sagar Koirala

My experience at Addenbrooke's Hospital

I got the opportunity to visit Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University because of the generosity of SBNS and its members which provided travel bursary in the honour of the late Upendra Prasad Devkota, FRCS. I had the privilege of observing Prof Peter Hutchinson's and Mr Richard Mannion's neurosurgery unit. Coming from a developing country striving hard to keep pace with the developed world, I was overwhelmed to see such a large unit with more than 20 consultants operating on a variety of neurosurgical ailments. But instead of observing everything I decided to focus on endoscopic surgeries and neurooncology as we were planning to get a neuroendoscope in my centre.

I found all the consultants to be very friendly and were keen to teach me. I observed almost 10 endoscopic pituitary surgeries, 5 endoscopic craniopharyngiomas and lots of gliomas and meningiomas. I am grateful to Mr Koliass, Mr Helmy, Prof. Hutchinson, Mr Guilfoyle, Mr Mannion, Mr Santarius among others who took extra effort to make me understand their techniques of operating. I found the registrars very efficient in managing not only the patients clinically but also empathic towards them. The concept of specialist nurse was new to me and I found them quite knowledgeable and very dedicated.

At the end of the observership, I attended the SBNS conference in Blackpool. It was a feast for scientific researches as well as to end the journey in a touristic note. I enjoyed Mr Alistair Jenkins hospitality and the Gala dinner program was wonderful. The 6 weeks of observership came to an end in no time, but the experience shall help me shape my decision making and patient management back home in my country. I express my deepest gratitude to SBNS for providing me this opportunity.

MANS Congress 2022 – Cairo, Egypt

13th - 15th December 2022



The Society of British Neurological Surgeons were one of the invited societies at the 3rd Congress of the Mediterranean Association of Neurological Surgeons in Cairo 13th - 15th December 2022 along with the 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).

It was a great meeting scientifically and socially covering all the neurosurgical specialities, sessions on education/training and an emphasis on global neurosurgery. The SBNS had a special session during the conference and several SBNS members attended and gave talks: Ahmed Abougamil, Keyoumars Ashkan, Pragnesh Bhatt, Paul Grundy, Peter Hutchinson, Ramez Ibrahim, Alistair Jenkins, Claire Nicholson, Matt Radatz, Thomas Santarius, Shivani Sekar, Peter Whitfield and international members including Andrew Reisner.

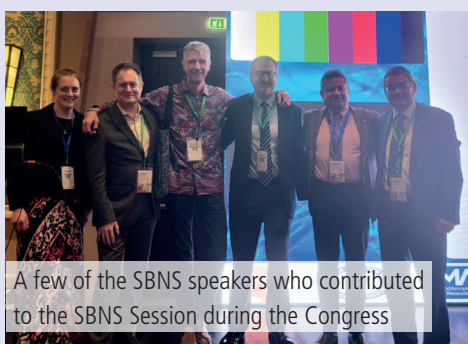
In line with our new Global neurosurgery initiative we hope to have more engagement with international Societies and would encourage members to attend the EANS/WFNS and other international meetings, especially where the SBNS have been specifically invited. Check the diary section on the SBNS website for regular updates.

Our outward journey on the 12th December to Cairo started off with heavy snow and we were all a bit apprehensive, but thankfully we all arrived safely.

Things didn't bode well for the return journey home either, the UK seemed to be awash with train and baggage handling strikes. Thankfully in Cairo there were no such problems with the local transport system, though we did look like we were on the set of a remake of Lawrence of Arabia!



Peter Whitfield presenting a gift from the SBNS to Prof. Nasser El Ghandour, Congress President and Prof. Alberto Delitala, MANS President



A few of the SBNS speakers who contributed to the SBNS Session during the Congress



Alix and Suzanne flying the flag for the SBNS



Peter Hutchinson, Peter Whitfield, Suzanne Murray & Alix Gordon

SBNS Blackpool Meeting, 27th - 30th September 2022



The SBNS Blackpool meeting was a great triumph. It was originally due to take place in September 2019, but for obvious reasons had to be postponed. However, it was well worth the wait as we were able to use the new Winter Gardens Conference centre and our invited guests, the British Association of Spinal Surgeons and the Neurological Society of India, were able to join us.



David Cumming & Aprajay Golash

The meeting started on Tuesday with the Subspecialty Meeting on Spine organised by our invited guests BASS and the local hosts. The daylong session, "Learning From Experiences" was chaired by the BASS President, David Cummings and BASS Hon. Secretary, Aprajay Golash from the Preston Unit. Numerous spine specialists shared their knowledge and expertise on how they tackle complicated procedures, including when things go wrong and how to overcome them.

The Spine theme continued on Wednesday morning with the Life Long Learning Session with a variety of prominent speakers, home grown and international, covering an array of spinal topics.



Beth Donaldson-Hugh

The main meeting opened with the Victor Horsley lecture on "Idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus: not the retirement dream one hoped for!" delivered by Beth Donaldson-Hugh, one of the consultants from the host unit, she is not quite retired and I am sure they don't want to lose her just yet.

SBNS Blackpool Meeting, Continued

This was followed by the "Hot Topics" session and before anyone gets too excited it wasn't anything "X rated", but important topics of general interest to the neurosurgical community and featured talks on: The Confederation of British Surgery, National Consultant Information Programme, SBNS National Neurosurgical Audit Programme, SBNS EDI Survey results and a Clinical Research Trial update by the SBNS Academic Chair. This was topped off with a session on Women in Neurosurgery, where a panel of four female neurosurgeons, trainees and consultants, gave an account of their experiences, trials, tribulations and triumphs in a profession where they are heavily outnumbered by men. Girl Power!



Teresa Scott, Saba Raza-Knight, Ruvini Abeygunaratne, Jane Halliday & Beth Donaldson-Hugh

Wednesday finished off with two short oral poster sessions, one focused on Spine and the other on mixed topics. This format was introduced a few meeting ago as it allows each speaker an opportunity to speak about their poster to the whole audience. We also tried out having electronic posters for the first time and they seemed to go down well.

Thursday morning kicked off with a breakfast seminar sponsored by Zeiss on Novel & emerging technologies in surgical oncology, with an excellent talk by Ryan Matthews.



Prof Hutchinson and Vejay

Later on we were honoured to have the RCS Arnott Lecture given by Vejay Vakaria on "Minimally invasive hemispherotomy for drug resistant epilepsy: An anatomical feasibility study" and the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture delivered by the President of the NSI, Dr VP Singh on "The Making of a Neurosurgeon". He trained in the Newcastle unit alongside Alistair Jenkins and they have remained close friends.



Dr VP Singh giving his talk

Despite the early morning start after the gala dinner there was a good turnout for the Breakfast seminar sponsored by Brainlab entitled "A two centre clinical experience of Mixed Reality". Bristol v Preston. Our final named lecture, the Sir Hugh Cairns lecture, was given by Shelly Woods, Paralympic Athlete Gold Medal Winner who gave a moving rendition of her story from when she broke her spine as a young girl to gaining a gold medal and raising a family. A great example of willpower and determination.



Throughout the meeting we had numerous free paper sessions all headed by plenary talks from experts in their field from various UK and International speakers. Our guests from the NSI made a huge contribution to the programme with over 11 speakers.

The standard of all the oral and poster presentations was extremely high and besides awarding a prize for the best Oral and best Poster presentation the meeting committee decided to also acknowledge the best in category with a certificate.

Prize winners

Top Oral Presentation



Frederick Ewbank (Southampton) for his abstract "Blood pressure targets and subarachnoid haemorrhage"

Top Poster Presentation



Maryam Gillani (Glasgow) for her poster - "Effect of Post-operative X-Ray on Hospital stay and cost following Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion (ACDF)"

Best in Category

- CSF** - Conor Gillespie (Liverpool)/Kanza Tariq (NHNN)
- Trauma** - Stasa Tumpa (Cambridge)
- Paeds** - Catherine Pringle (Manchester)
- Skullbase** - Anna Oviedova (Charing Cross)
- Oncology** - Gayathri Arul Selvan (Liverpool)
- Functional** - Debayan Dasgupta (NHNN)
- Spine** - James Knight (King's College)/ Aimun Jamjoon (Edinburgh)
- Teaching/Training** - Settasorn Ooi (Cardiff)
- Miscellaneous** - Melissa Gough (Newcastle)

Congratulations to all!

SBNS Blackpool Meeting, Continued Social Events

The vintage tram ride to see the famous Blackpool illuminations at the end of the welcome reception on Wednesday evening was great fun, and we didn't let the rain dampen our spirits. However, I am sure everyone who attended the Gala Dinner at the iconic Tower Ballroom will agree it was the highlight of the meeting. Here are some of the shots taken of the social events... as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.



The lights did look a little blurry out of the steamed up tram windows but we still enjoyed the experience!

The professionals - ballroom, bangra and classic Indian dancers



Judging by Alistair's sad face he was a bit reluctant to give up the Presidential medal to Peter!



A presentation from the NSI



Believe it or not they are trying to do the Charleston!

SBNS Blackpool Meeting, Continued

PRIZE WINNERS



Susan Honeyman - top ranked candidate at the 2022 round of National Nonsurgical Selection



Daniel Lewis - Best Oral Prize winner from Cardiff Meeting



Kanza Tariq - Best Poster Prize winner from Cardiff Meeting



Danyal Khan - Hugh Cairns Essay Prize winner



The Preston Team



Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the meeting, especially our colleagues at the Preston unit, (led by Prof. Nihal Grurusinghe), our invited guests, the AV team at ESW, our Sponsors and the staff at the Winter Gardens. They all deserve top marks!

If you wish to view the presentations from the Blackpool meeting visit <https://sbns.talkingslideshd.com> and to view the photos visit <http://jalbum.net/a/2059236>

The SBNS Meetings Committee -
Peter Hutchinson, Carole Turner, Alix Gordon and Suzanne Murray

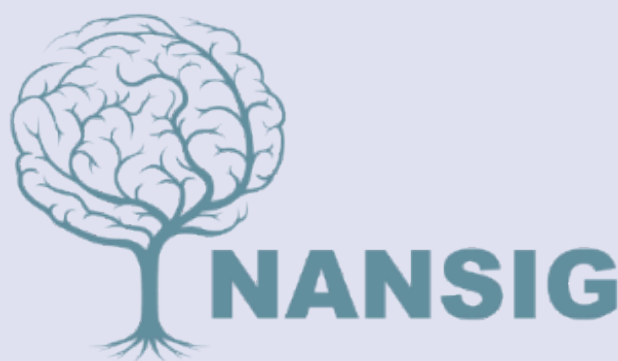
NANSIG Workshop



The Neurology and Neurosurgery Interest Group (NANSIG) held their 7th Neurosurgical Skills Course in collaboration with SBNS at their Autumn Meeting in Blackpool. The Preston neurosurgical faculty, led by Mr Andrew Alalade, kindly helped with facilitating this full day workshop. The workshop was NANSIG's largest to date, hosting 30 delegates mostly from across the UK and Republic of Ireland, including a delegate who flew from Uganda.

A range of basic neurosurgical skills stations at the workshop including Burr holes, ICP bolt insertion, EVD insertion, and for the first time, spinal anatomy. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors - Medtronic, Integra, Delta Surgical, MDU and ASiT, the course was able to be delivered at a reasonable price. The workshop was well-received and NANSIG are grateful for the support from the SBNS.

The Neurology and Neurosurgery Interest Group (NANSIG) was established in 2010 and allows medical students and junior doctors to gain insight and experience in Neurology and Neurosurgery. Their flagship event is the annual careers day which attracts over 200 delegates and is run in association with the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SBNS). The next Careers Day is on 18th February 2022 at the Imperial in London. To find out more about NANSIG - future events, courses, etc please [click here](#).



SBNS Spring Meeting



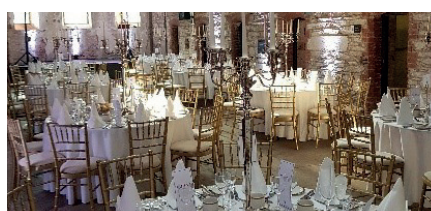
The SBNS Spring Meeting will be hosted by SBNS Colleagues at Cork University Hospital who are looking forward to welcoming you to the Emerald Isle and the beautiful city of Cork. The Conference Venue they have chosen is the [Clayton Hotel Silver Springs Conference Centre, Tivoli, Cork, Southern Ireland](#) which is located on the outskirts of the town, it is easily accessible and has good transport links.

The Abstract line is now closed - a big thank you to all who have submitted. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out early in January. The SBNS Meetings Committee and Hosts have already been planning the programme and we have a great line up of guest speakers including: Dr Michael McDermott from Miami, USA, Prof. Osama Elmefty from Boston, USA and Charles Marks who will be delivering the Victor Horsley Lecture on behalf of the Host Unit.

We are pleased to announce that the British Skull Base Society (BSBS) have agreed to join the meeting and will be hosting a half day meeting on the Tuesday afternoon prior to the start of the main meeting. All delegates are welcome to attend. This section will be supported by Stryker and held at their premises. Full details will be posted on the website in due course.

The Skull Base theme will continue into Wednesday as the hosts have chosen this to be the topic for the Life Long Learning session on Wednesday morning. The Main Academic Programme will start on Wednesday afternoon and end on Friday after lunch and will include oral and poster session on a variety neurosurgical topics, guest lectures, Breakfast seminars and much more! Please check the Academic Programme tab in the lead up to the meeting for regular updates.

Social Events



For those of you who have attended SBNS meetings in the past you will know that it is not all work and no play and this meeting is no exception. On the evening of Wednesday the 29 March the Welcome Reception will be held in the Conference Venue. In keeping with our location, the entertainment, food and drink will be Irish themed. The more formal Gala Dinner on Thursday Evening will be held in the unusual venue of the Old City Gaol, but fear not, there won't be porridge and water on the menu. Instead there will be a delicious 3 course meal with exquisite wines and

the dress code will be black tie not prison uniforms and handcuffs. We have also arranged for the "Sultans of Spine" to entertain us. Two of the key players, Prof. Ciaran Bolger and Jake Timothy will be known to many of you.



Tickets are at the bargain price of **£75.00** so don't miss out and book early.

The registration line will be open at the end of January. To find out more about the meeting please visit the [conference page](#).

As usual all accommodation is booked via [Julie at Intouch](#) - please book early as the early bird rate is only guaranteed till 20th February.

This event is supported by Meet in Ireland and Fáilte Ireland (The National Tourism Development Authority) and if you wanted to extend your stay they would be only too pleased to help.



We look forward to seeing you in March.

The SBNS Meetings Committee – Peter Hutchinson, Carole Turner, Alix Gordon, Suzanne Murray and local lead host Wail Mohammed.

BNRG Meeting - 24th - 25th November 2022



The 2022 BNRG meeting took place in Leeds in November. It was a great success both academically and socially.

The meeting was preceded by a very well attended trials workshop for neurosurgical trainees led by Professor Deborah Stocken, clinical trialist in Leeds. Topics included overcoming barriers to surgical trials and conducting trials for low volume pathologies.

The focus of the BNRG meeting was on technology, devices and innovation, with a high number of good quality talks covering a wide range of subjects. The invited talks were given by David Jones, retired colorectal surgeon on the very topical subject of [achieving greener operations](#) and Professor Sanjeev Gupta who gave a fascinating talk on exploring Mars with robots.

Following the main meeting there was an interesting innovation and technology symposium (NITS) which included an interactive neurosurgical hackathon!

The next BNRG meeting will take place in 23-24 November 2023 in Oxford hosted by Prof. Puneet Plaha.

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 details.

Dates for your diary

SBNS MEETINGS

[SBNS Spring Meeting](#)

29th - 31st March 2023
Clayton Hotel Silver Springs Conference Centre, Cork



[SBNS Autumn Meeting](#)

12th - 15th September 2023
Twickenham Conference and Events Centre, London
Abstract line opens in March 2023



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 August 2023, content will be required by July 2023. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.

British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) Meeting - LEEDS

23rd - 24th November 2023 in Oxford

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

[5th International Conference on Complications in Neurosurgery](#)

10th - 12th March 2023
SBNS are invited guests
Venue: Hotel JW Marriott, Sahar International Airport, Mumbai (India)

[British Neuroscience Association \(BNA\) 2023](#)

23rd - 26th Apr 2023 - Brighton

[EANS2023](#)

24th - 28th September 2023

[9th Annual Meeting - 10th SNSS Congress](#)

(Serbian neurosurgery - Centennial anniversary in 2023)
30th October - 3rd November 2023

[18th World Congress of Neurosurgery](#)

6th - 11th December 2023
Cape Town, South Africa

Aesculap Academia Neurosurgery Events



[British Skull Base Society Meeting \(BSBS\)](#)

Thursday 26th - Friday 27th January 2023
Durham

[British Neurovascular Group Meeting \(BNVG\)](#)

Wednesday 8th - Thursday 9th February 2023
Cambridge

[23rd Clinicopathological Conference on Pituitary Disease](#)

Friday 17th March 2023
London

[4th International Symposium on Paediatric Auditory Brainstem Implant](#)

Thursday 20th - Friday 21st April 2023
London

[Endoscopic Anterior Skull Base Surgery](#)

Monday 19th - Tuesday 20th June 2023
Leeds

[Care of the Critically Ill Neurosurgery Patient](#)

Thursday 22nd - Friday 23rd June 2023
Sheffield

[British Neurooncology Society Annual Meeting \(BNOS\)](#)

Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th July 2023
Manchester

[Cranial Approaches Cadaveric Course](#)

Wednesday 8th - Thursday 9th November 2023
Bristol

OUR CONTACT
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