



Newsletter July 2024

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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A Message from the President



Peter Whitfield, SBNS President

Dear Members,

I cannot believe that this will be my last newsletter as President of the SBNS. The last two years have flown by. My neurosurgical career, stimulated by experiences as a medical student in Southampton, began in Glasgow where I worked as an SHO in 1989. I am currently writing this piece from a hotel bedroom in Glasgow, while I eagerly await the celebrations over the next couple of days of the Glasgow Coma Scale reaching 50 years of age. Bryan Jennett had just retired when I worked in the "Glasgow School" but continued to undertake excellent "brain slice" teaching on an occasional basis. I was lucky enough to work with Professor Sir Graham Teasdale, Ross Bullock, Ken Lindsay, Robin Johnston and Rab Hide at that time. I am sure we will be reminiscing, but more importantly looking forward to the next 50 years of the GCS. The beauty of the scale is the simplicity and the applicability to clinical care.

One of the key strengths of the Society is the quality of the SBNS Conferences. Over the last two years we have had many international guests at our meetings including: India, USA, France and, most recently, Italy. I strongly believe that developing our international links enhances the breadth and quality of learning and creates future opportunities for research collaborations and exchange programmes. We had a very successful conference in Edinburgh in April 2024, a fantastic social program and high-quality science. I am really looking forward to the meeting in Edgbaston,

Birmingham with our invited guests from Belgium. It will be at the conference dinner that Professor Peter Hutchinson takes over the reins of responsibility and leadership.

The SBNS Council meets four times per annum. One meeting each year is held outside of London. This year we visited Preston. Arup Ray delivered a brilliant exposition, with typical humility, on the structure and development of the unit over the last two decades as the Entrée to our visit. Cohesion, teamwork and spending time with trainees were all contributors to the successful expansion of the unit. I look forward to visiting Preston again for the ST1 Simulation Training in August. I managed to squeeze in a couple of days walking in the Lake District with my family straight afterwards: an enjoyable way to mix work and pleasure: Striding Edge is not for the faint-hearted!

I have also recently visited the neurosurgical unit in Brighton (University Hospitals Sussex). As many of you will be aware the press has reported ongoing investigations into care at the Hospital. Delivering care to patients under such scrutiny is difficult. During my visit I was welcomed by the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, the Divisional and Departmental Leads as well as all neurosurgeons and several of the trainees and nursing staff. I was impressed with the ability of the whole team to continue delivering high quality care to patients with complex neurosurgical conditions, display a cohesive approach to team development and retain compassionate resilience: in Aristotle's words "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts". The Brighton Unit has recently moved into an incredible new-build hospital wing, with views of sailing yachts enjoying a fresh breeze in the English Channel from the theatre tearoom. The facilities are first rate with the sufficient space to future proof the development of the unit.

Over the past year we have been able to provide a Support Service to all members. We are continuing to offer this through our links with the Confederation of British Surgery (www.cbsgb.co.uk). Emily Borhan delivers the Surgical Advisory Service and can help members who, whatever the reason, find themselves in difficulty. She has the experience

and back-up network to advise on terms and conditions of employment, medico-legal issues, harassment, workplace politics and stress in the workplace. All conversations with Emily are confidential and she can be contacted on: professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk (07498 332 935).

Over the past two years the SBNS has developed a Global Neurosurgery Initiative. Much credit must go to Alistair Jenkins for his unlimited enthusiasm in this regard and to Nigel Mendoza for chairing this group. I thank Iona Jenkins for undertaking to volunteer for the SBNS with the focus on the Global Initiative. We have recently joined the G4 Alliance, a collaborative aiming to provide Surgical Obstetric Trauma and Anaesthesia (SOTA) Care to the five billion people in the World without access to safe surgical care and anaesthesia: we believe that there are 33 countries with no neurosurgery. We hope that this will allow us to be structured and organised in our approach. To date, Nigel is compiling a database of interested parties in the UK. The SBNS and the Alan and Diana Karter Funds have been utilised to support trainees. Our intention is to appropriately invest funds to generate monies that can be awarded in perpetuity. In addition, work is taking place to explore the possibility of developing an International Curriculum Framework. I will be presenting our work so far in the Global Neurosurgery Initiative at the Federation of Surgical Societies (FSSA)/ Surgical Forum meeting in Edinburgh in September. The FSSA is a very useful organisation where the Presidents of all surgical specialties meet to discuss common themes and topical issues. Every nine months the meeting includes the Presidents and Council members of all four Royal Colleges (the "Surgical Forum"). This has always proved to be a very rich environment for discussion, debate and sharing of ideas.

I encourage members to attend the International Neurotrauma Society Meeting in Cambridge in September where a satellite meeting "Global Advanced Course – Neurotrauma" takes place. (www.neurotrauma2024.com). In keeping with

our interest in Trauma, the SBNS has recently joined the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety. Currently around five people die every day on roads in the UK and many more are seriously injured. PACTS is a cross-party charity with a vision for a transport system free from death and life changing injury. I think the SBNS has a role to play in supporting safety initiatives, very much akin to Hugh Cairns's advocacy for motorcycle helmets. Cairns was an advisor to the Ministry of Health following his inability to save TE Lawrence from the effects of a severe TBI following an unprotected motorcycle accident in 1935 in Dorset.

Over the past five years much work has gone on the arena of endovascular practice. Progress seems to have been at a glacial speed, partly due to the distraction of the Covid epidemic. The GMC approved a Curriculum for the "Credential in Mechanical Thrombectomy" last year. NHS England is now inviting expressions of interest for participation in this training: neurosurgeons, interventional radiologists, cardiologists and stroke physicians all have potential to participate. Competence in angiography, involvement in aneurysm treatments and undertaking thrombectomy will be key components of training. Acceptance onto the programme will be competitive, particularly given that there are now 39 neurointerventional trainees and over 100 INR consultants in practice.

Despite an excellent meeting in Cape Town in December 2023, the WFNS is an organisation in difficulty. The reasons for this are hard to comprehend. The Federation has a complex organisational structure and comprises five Continental Associations, 119 National Societies and six Affiliate Societies, representing over 30,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Jake Timothy and Tina Karabatsou represent the SBNS and have been raising concerns about WFNS internal politics over several years. These have been monitored and discussed at great length in our Council Meetings and we have come to a decision to suspend our membership fee until we are confident that the organisation is meeting all its aims effectively. We understand that the AANS has come to the

same decision as us. We support the objectives of the Federation to promote the exchange and dissemination of neurosurgical knowledge, encourage research, promote high standards of care and address demographic issues. We hope that the suspension of our membership fees is a temporary measure.

Over the last decade or thereabouts I have been involved in many of the Simulation Training Bootcamps – ST1, ST3 and more recently ST8. The pedagogy behind these mirrors the curriculum with delivery led by experienced trainers. The feedback from trainees is consistently very good/ excellent. On speaking with trainees, I am convinced that there is capacity for us to develop an ST6 Bootcamp, focussing on the anatomy of cranial approaches and white matter anatomy. The Society is going to pump prime this initiative so that hopefully, in 2024/25 we can establish a Cadaveric Bootcamp at this important time in training. Watch this space!

Suzanne, Alix and Carole are the unsung heroes of the Society. They are currently working behind the scenes to plan SBNS conferences in Belfast (11th - 14th March 2025) and Bristol (23rd - 26th September 2025); a joint meeting with the BNRG (in Harrogate: 15th - 17th April 2026) and then the SBNS 100 Meeting in Westminster (12th - 16th October 2026). Sam Hettige is doing a great job as our meetings and Communications Secretary. Alongside this our Admin team is helping us develop a new website. I hope that this will be online in the next few months. It will be a major change from the current format that I hope members will find attractive, intuitive and helpful. There will be teething problems, so please feedback on areas where we can make effective changes and corrections.

Finally, I hope you have a wonderful summer and spend time enjoying the privilege of being able to help neurosurgical patients, train our colleagues as well as relaxing with your family and friends. I very much wish Peter Hutchinson every success when I pass the baton to him later in this Olympic Year.

Prof. Peter Whitfield

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

Welcome New Members

The following new members were approved by council and had their membership ratified at the AGM.

Full

Alexandru Budu	Birmingham
William Cato-Addison	James Cook
Rebecca Chave-Cox	Leeds
Arthur Dalton	Imperial
Anne Elserius	Stoke
Jane Halliday	Salford
Khandkar Kawsar	Edinburgh
Thomas Land	Birmingham
Nektarios Mazarakis	Brighton
Kevin O'Neill	Imperial
Ramanan Sivakumaran	Plymouth
Anthony Wiggins	Edinburgh
Julie Woodfield	Edinburgh

Associate

Soham Bandyopadhyay	Oxford
James Booker	London
Jonathan Funnell	London
Michael Helley	Dundee
Thaaqib Nazar	Coventry
Adam Nunn	London
Olatomiwa Olukoya	NHNN
Marta Ortega	NHNN
See Yung Phang	Glasgow
Siddharth Sinha	London
Amir Suliman	Newcastle
Sandra Sungailaite	South Tees
Gopiga Thanabalasundaram	London
Mohamed Ugas	St Georges
Siddharth Vankipuram	London

Affiliated

Yousif Aldabbagh	Nottingham
Amr Ammar	Nottingham
Obinna Ayogu	Nigeria
Mohamad Beshali	Iran
Emalee Burrows	Australia
Dhanwanth Chigurupati	Aberdeen
Callum Cruickshank	Edinburgh
Emily Foster	Edinburgh
Anda-Veronica Gherman	Manchester
Laura Kehoe	Beaumont
Ahmed Raslan	London
James Selbie	Leeds
Adam Sheriff	London
Mohamed Shoaib	India
Joachim Starup-Hansen	NHNN
Thijs Vandalen	London
Robert Vardanyan	Nottingham
Penny Wu	London

International

Mansur Aliev	Uzbekistan
Moustafa Alrahwanji	Germany
Khursheed Ansari	India
David Baskin	USA
Darius Jaskolski	Poland
Mubashir Qureshi	Kenya
Sokhib Saidov	Uzbekistan

Senior

Stephen Cooke	Belfast
Carl Hardwidge	Haywards Heath
Shahid Siddique	Coventry
John Thorne	Manchester
Richard Walsh	Birmingham

New Appointments Sub-specialty Leads



Chair of the British Neurovascular Group (BNVG)

Christo Toliás is the newly elected chair of the BNVG. He took up the post in February 2024 at the BNVG Annual Meeting in Hull. Christo is a Professor of Neurosurgery and has been a consultant at Kings since 2005 and is a highly recognised neurovascular surgeon and as built a very successful Fellowship programme, whilst maintaining a wide academic profile.

To find out more about BNVG visit: <http://www.neurovascular.co.uk/>



British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group (BPNG)

Ajay Sinha is the newly elected Chair of the BPNG and took up the post in March at their annual meeting last March in Leeds. Ajay is a paediatric neurosurgeon based at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool with a subspecialty interest in craniofacial surgery. His other interests are Education and Global Neurosurgery. He is a Training programme Director, NW Deanery, Member SAC neurosurgery and SAC training liaison member for Northern Ireland. Senior FRCS(SN) and International FRCS examiner.

To find out more about BPNG visit: <https://bpng.org.uk/>



British Neuro Oncology Society (BNOS)

Andrew Brodbelt is the current President Elect of BNOS. He takes over as President of BNOS in July 2025. Andrew is a consultant neurosurgeon and lead for neuro-oncology at the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust and an Honorary Clinical Professor at the University of Liverpool. His research interests include epidemiology of brain tumour patients, long term survivors of Glioblastoma, and Tumour treating fields.

To find out more about BNOS please visit: <https://www.bnos.org.uk/>

All Sub Speciality leads are invited to attend SBNS Council Meetings on a rotational basis to update the SBNS Council on the current activities of their groups and in turn find out about the SBNS activities.



Clinical Lead for ebrain

Dan Brown, Consultant Neurosurgeon at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust has recently been appointed as the Clinical Lead for ebrain. Dan subspecialises in Cerebrovascular disorders and degenerative spinal surgery.

He is also heavily involved in the provision of medical education to both Cambridge University Medical School undergraduate medical students as well as postgraduate neurosurgeons in training and he is also the Director of the Brain Mapping wet cadaveric lab at Addenbrookes hospital. With all the above interests he is the perfect candidate for this role!

Congratulations to all and the best of luck in your new roles.

Sad Farewell



Mr Alan Waters, 16th March 1947 – 18th December 2023

Mr Alan Waters, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Addenbrooke's Hospital, was a man of many talents and interests with a distinguished career in Neurosurgery.

He was educated at St Olave's School Tower Bridge London, with his endeavours at school awarded by a place at the University of Edinburgh to read Medicine where he matriculated in October 1964.

In 1968 he was awarded a BSc Hons degree in Biochemistry and 1971 passed his finals to gain MBChB.

His house officer posts included the Professional Unit of Surgery at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary followed by the Edinburgh Surgical Rotation from 1973 to 1976.

He passed his FRCS examinations becoming a fellow of both the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Edinburgh.

In 1976 he was appointed as Neurosurgical Registrar to Professor John Gillingham at the Western General Hospital Edinburgh and 1978 he was appointed as Neurosurgical Senior Registrar at Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge to Mr John Gleave, Mr David Hardy and Mr Alec Holmes.

In 1985 he was awarded the degree of Master of Surgery from the University of Cambridge for his thesis "Altered Membrane Properties of Cerebral Vascular Smooth Muscle Following Experimental Subarachnoid Haemorrhage", work undertaken at the University of Vermont.

He was then appointed as Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant at the University of Cambridge and subsequently Consultant at Addenbrooke's Hospital until his retirement. This coincided with 50th Birthday Celebration of the Department in 2012.

Mr Waters was an excellent clinician, good with his hands and loved by his patients and their families. He practised before the days of subspecialisation with a broad clinical practice. He loved his head light and Cloward's neck operation. Rumour has it that he performed more Cloward's operations than Cloward himself. He undertook the unenviable role of rota administrator. He was a passionate teacher at Departmental Academic meetings with a vast knowledge of neuroanatomy.

Mr Waters had a distinct training style. He enabled trainees to develop their own surgical identity. He was not one to take you through the operation step by step. As a registrar you would watch and learn. His operation notes were scribed in beautiful flowery writing and always signed off 'Alan Waters Consultant Neurosurgeon'. As your confidence and Mr Water's confidence grew you would undertake more of the surgery yourself.

Visits to his office were memorable: a discussion of all the patients, him writing down in his diary what operations had been performed, a conversation about neuroanatomy and then a progression to Opera, Rugby, Football and Steam Railways. He was very generous with tickets to Covent Garden. He loved discussing the Six Nations and his passion for Millwall Football Club.

Mr Waters had an amazing career. He was a passionate doctor appreciated by his medical colleagues, trainees, nurses, secretary, other staff within the hospital and his patients and their families.

Above, all he was a kind and gracious gentleman and is missed greatly by his wife Fiona, his son Jamie, daughter Victoria and many friends and colleagues in Cambridge and beyond.

Fiona Waters and Peter Hutchinson

Sad Farewell



Henry H Gossman, 1925 – 2024

Henry Gossman, who founded the Neurosurgical unit in Plymouth, passed away on 11th April 2024 at the age of 98. Mr Gossman was one of the last of the cohort of surgeons who trained under the supervision of Sir Hugh Cairns at Wheatley Military Hospital, Oxfordshire in the early 1950's. He was born in Berlin, the son of a lawyer who was an emigre to England in the 1930s. The trace of a German accent never left him. His family settled in England and Henry was schooled in Durham. He graduated from Newcastle Medical School in 1949.

During his second house job in Newcastle, he assisted George Rowbotham, the unit chief and a trainee of Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, and was impressed by his operating. Rowbotham advised Henry to complete four years of general surgery after which he returned to Newcastle to complete neurosurgical training. He was posted to Wheatley as a National Serviceman in

1951, where the surgeons were Joseph Pennybacker and Walpole Lewin. He was not at Wheatley for long before being dispatched as an RAMC medical officer aboard Korean War troopships, firstly to Port Said and then to Kure in the bay of Hiroshima.

His first Consultant Neurosurgeon post was at Sunderland General Hospital from where he applied for the Plymouth post. Within 4 years of opening, he was dealing singlehandedly with over 400 admissions per year. He had a close friendship with John Jane Snr, whom he met when both were visiting Wilder Penfield at McGill University, Montreal. There was a fruitful training collaboration with Charlottesville, USA, from where a total of 39 trainees came to join the Plymouth team on secondment between 1970 and 2000. After retirement he served as language editor for *Acta Neurochirurgica* for some years.

Jonathan Pollock, SBNS Archivist



David Thomas, 14th May 1941 – 20th April 2024

David Thomas, Professor of Neurosurgery at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, was one of our most innovative and energetic surgeons. Forty years ago, he chose, most unfashionably, to engage battle with the glioblastoma. Until then, sadly, patients were treated almost with disdain. His concept of clinicians from different disciplines collaborating with scientists led to the formation of the British Neuro-Oncology Society. His laboratory work, setting up a brain tumour bank with cell culture was one of the first. A pioneer of image guided surgery he used the earliest CT and MR scanners to perform the first MR biopsy and brain stem biopsy collaborating with Patrick Kelly from the States. His clinical work also extended to innovative pain procedures, notably per cutaneous thermo coagulation for Trigeminal Neuralgia. More importantly he felt very strongly that patients should be involved in research and care – this innovative approach remains the lesson to us

all with our tendency within our Health Service, Royal Colleges, and Societies to be exclusive rather than inclusive of the patients who we serve. Very well known in international academic circles, he was Vice President of the WFNS, EANS and SBNS and President of the European Stereotactic Society and was active in various other societies including, post-retirement, the presidency of the Harveian Society - the last highly appropriate as his alma mater was Harvey's college Gonville and Caius. He was also moved to receive an additional neurosurgical appointment at his other alma mater St Mary's late in his career - the place where, as a young man, he had partly financed his clinical studies as a film artiste in productions such as *Goldfinger* and *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*.

Together with his wife, Hazel, who is also a doctor, he was the most generous of hosts and managed amazingly to find time to pursue interests outside neurosurgery, counting among his friends similarly distinguished people from unconnected walks of life.

He leaves a son William and two granddaughters, Athena and Livia.

David Thomas was an exceptionally caring doctor and his teaching involving patients in their own care is a lesson for us all. His thinking puts him at the top of the pantheon of British neurosurgery.

Charles Davis, Michael Powell and William Thomas

50 Years Of The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)

In July 1974, Graham Teasdale and Bryan Jennett published their landmark paper in the Lancet 'Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness. A practical scale'. The year 2024 is therefore the 50th anniversary of this historic achievement, and there were a series of events in Glasgow to mark the occasion.

On the evening of Wednesday 26th June 2024, there was a gathering in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Those assembled were addressed eloquently by Clare Harrison, from the college heritage department, who discussed the artefacts on display, including Macewen's notes on the first successful removal of a brain tumour, his selected surgical instruments, and the prototype biphasic stimulator built by Sloan-Robertson. Following dinner, John Jennett spoke about his father's career, with several amusing anecdotes, while revealing his character, especially his tenacity and resilience in the face of adversity. Mr Mike McKirdy, President of the RCPSG, then made some thoughtful remarks about the impact of Teasdale and Jennett's work.



Sir Graham Teasdale also spoke that evening and addressed a larger audience in the college the following day, Thursday 27th June, providing valuable insights into the inception and evolution of the Glasgow Coma Scale. This was a welcome reminder of how disorganised and chaotic the assessment of the unconscious patient was before the advent of the scale, underlining the major medical advance it represented. There then followed a series of invited lectures from speakers with an international reputation, encompassing the impact of the GCS across the whole of neuroscience.



In the first session, chaired by Professor Pickard, the audience heard from Professor Maas, who discussed 50 years of the GCS in neurotrauma; Professor Mendelow, whose talk focused on subarachnoid haemorrhage and intracerebral haemorrhage; Professor Mary Braine, who provided a nursing perspective; and finally Dr Mattei, whose bibliometric analysis of the medical literature demonstrated that the influence of the GCS is, in fact, increasing over time.

In the afternoon, the second session chaired by Professor Whitfield explored the state of the art, with lectures from Professor Mark Wilson, Professor Menon, Dr Khoo, and Mr Brennan. The late afternoon session focused on the GCS in a global context, and was led by Mr Mendoza, chair of the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative, with further lectures from Professor Hutchinson and Mr Brennan. The day ended with a panel discussion, with Sir Graham Teasdale taking centre stage, and promising to return for the 100th anniversary!

Finally, on Friday 28th June, there was a separate evening in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow, where staff from the Institute of Neurological Sciences, past and present, and friends from further afield, celebrated into the wee hours of the morning.

Chris Barrett, SBNS Council Member

National Conference (Scottish Universities Neurology and Neurosurgery Conference [SUNN-C])



The National Conference (Scottish Universities Neurology and Neurosurgery Conference [SUNN-C]), held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2024 was hosted by the Edinburgh Student Neuro Society, in association with the RCSEd in the Prince Philip Building, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (RCSEd). It was attended by about 50 delegates (mainly medical students and junior doctors) from all over Scotland. This group aims to cater to aspiring neurologists and neurosurgeons within Scotland, just as the NANSIG group does across the country (but predominantly in England). This was the group's 10th conference and there were speakers on a range of academic and clinical topics and practical workshops on shunts, drills, EVDs, bipolar and navigation supported by industry.

Surajit Basu (SBNS Treasurer and consultant neurosurgeon based in Nottingham gave a talk on "Our roles in a Global Neurosurgical Society" and I spoke about "Developing a career in Neurosurgery in the UK". We were made very welcome and given plaques in thanks.

Donald Macarthur, SAC Chair

Congratulations



RCS England Council Member

Francisca Ferreira is an academic run-through Neurosurgery trainee with subspeciality interests in Functional Neurosurgery, AI and computational anatomy. Having recently completed her PhD in Functional Neurosurgery at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery/UCL (being a part of the RCS England Emerging Leaders programme), she recognises the systemic roadblocks in the career. She believes there is scope to modernise surgical training pathways to better utilise the diversity of our workforce, which truly constitutes a strength in better serving our patient.

Having been elected to the Royal College of Surgeons of England Council, she aims to protect and advocate recruitment of female and minority surgeons. She will work with RCS England to ensure fair training opportunities for all and towards the democratisation of research opportunities. She will vouch for the establishment of pathways of mentorship and will work to address the factors contribution to attrition in all surgical grades.



Arris and Gale Lectureship

Jason Yuen was awarded the Arris and Gale Lectureship by the RCS Eng for his paper entitled: "Dopamine and Serotonin measurements in Deep Brain Stimulation for Neuropsychiatric Disorders – a novel approach".

The lectureship was established in the year 1646 and is still awarded in stiff competition to surgeons at the height of their career.

Jason will be presenting this prestigious lecture at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in Birmingham – please come along and support him.

He is currently a Neurosurgical registrar based at Bristol. After completing his Natural Sciences degree at Cambridge and medical degree at Oxford, he was accepted into the neurosurgical training programme in Southwest England. During his training, he actively engaged in clinical research and completed a PhD under the mentorship of Professor Kendall Lee at the renowned Neural Engineering Laboratories, Mayo Clinic, Rochester. He is interested in different aspects of functional neurosurgery, particularly neuromodulation for movement disorders and neuropsychiatric diseases.



Hugh Cairns Essay Prize Winner

This year's Hugh Cairns Essay Prize was awarded to Ashwin Kumaria for his essay entitled: "How is tumour tissue microarchitecture linked with cerebrospinal fluid spread?" Ashwin will be presenting his paper at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in Birmingham in September 2024.

Ashwin is Senior Fellow in Neurosurgical Oncology at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. He completed neurosurgical training in Nottingham (CCT 2023). His clinical and academic interests include all aspects of brain tumours, hydrocephalus, neurosurgical aspects of stroke and traumatic brain injury. He has over 75 published papers and book chapters on these and other topics. A keen neuroanatomist and educator, he has been Founder and Course Director of the Nottingham Craniocerebral Anatomy and Intracranial Approaches course over the last four years. Ashwin has been appointed for further a Fellowship at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, commencing August 2024.



Tipu Z Aziz BSSFN Medal

The annual meeting of the British Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (BSSFN) was hosted by St. George's Hospital, London in May 2024. During the meeting, Professor Tipu Aziz was awarded the inaugural Tipu Z Aziz BSSFN Medal for Lifetime Achievement. This is an acknowledgement of Tipu's vast contribution to the field of functional neurosurgery, from ground-breaking basic science research to untiring clinical care. Tipu was previously also decorated with the SBNS Medal, underpinning his impact. In this photo he is seen with a group of past trainees many of whom are now senior academics or clinicians in the UK and abroad.

A worthy recipient for both awards. Congratulations.



SBNS Help Line

The SBNS helpline has been running for a year now, and I am pleased that I have been able to provide some assistance to members that have needed it.

The calls have varied from bullying and harassment, general issues with colleagues, to advice on how to deal with concerns over Trust investigations. Each matter has been dealt with uniquely to cater for the needs of the individual.

The helpline remains available to all members of SBNS, 24/7, on:

- professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk
- 07498 322 935

Please do reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you
Emily Borhan

SBNS Council Awayday in Preston 25th - 26th April 2024



The Preston Consultants and SBNS Council Members

Several years ago, the SBNS council decided it would be a good idea to hold at least one SBNS Council Meeting and forum each year in the hometown/city of one of the UK Neurosurgical Units, given that we do represent the whole of the UK and Eire. We have since had very successful forums in Dublin, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Bristol, Newcastle and Southampton.

They have been an excellent opportunity for council to learn of the issues and concerns around delivery of the neurosurgical practice in each region, to identify areas in which of the council can be of assistance and to get to know each other. This April the Preston unit was the “lucky” one!



Arup Ray - Clinical Lead, Preston

The evening before the Council meeting, the consultants met with council members for an informal forum where the Clinical Lead, Arup Ray, gave an excellent informative (and amusing) presentation and we all came away learning some interesting facts about the unit which we would like to share.

The Lancashire Teaching Hospitals at Preston is the Major Trauma Centre for Lancashire and South Cumbria, including the Lake District. The Neurosurgery department serves a population of around 1.8 million people and currently has 15 Consultants delivering most sub-specialities. There has been expansion in various areas of the service recently. There are up to five operating theatres running on most days, along with two neuro-angiogram suites.

New developments include spinal navigated surgery with the Airo intraoperative CT scan, the Cirq robot, and Endoscopic spinal surgery. Each theatre has access to navigation, microscope or exoscope, and intra-operative monitoring. The department has a strong commitment to training, research, and education with strong links with local universities and medical schools. Trainees have had regular success in the FRCS exams. Consultants play an active part at the national level through the SBNS, BASS, SAC and Royal Colleges. It is a cohesive, supportive, and productive unit which prides itself on being a “family”.

Suzanne Murray
SBNS, Senior Administrator

Impact of UK Neurosurgery Studies in the Last 100 Years



As part of the SBNS100 celebrations and conference in 2026 the SBNS Academic Committee are seeking nominations from SBNS members for UK neurosurgery papers that have had an impact on clinical practice in the last 100 years.

The volume of published research relating to Neurosurgery over the last few decades is increasing. Amongst the myriad articles, some are truly impactful.

Publications may describe a procedure or surgical approach, evaluate the relative effects of current treatments or techniques, introduce a new classification system, or provide insights into natural history or disease prognosis. The Glasgow Coma Scale will no doubt make the cut!

The initiative is being led by:

- Catherine McMahon (Manchester)
- Paul Brennan (Edinburgh)
- Michael Jenkinson (Liverpool)
- Carole Turner (SBNS Research Manager)

Details of how to submit a nomination will be circulated to SBNS members soon!

Michael Jenkinson
Academic Chair

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Neurosurgery

The SBNS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Group are continuing to explore attitudes and promote inclusion and access throughout UK neurosurgery.

In the Edinburgh SBNS conference, there was an EDI session with enlightening talks from Professor Carrie Newlands, of The Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery (WPSMS), and Dr Silvia Hernandez-Duran, from Gottingen, Germany, talking about ethnic minorities in European Neurosurgery.

The results of a survey about sexual misconduct in neurosurgery*, completed by the conference delegates were also presented. These were similar to the findings in the WPSMS "[Breaking the Silence](#)" report (unfortunately sexual misbehaviours are experienced by those in our neurosurgical community, especially with (but not limited to) women as victims). Acknowledging this is happening is the first step to eliminate these behaviours, and we have launched the Three Principles of Prevention aka "STOP" (see below) to help people avoid it and call it out.

In the longer term, we are working with the FSSA to create a pan-surgery Code of Conduct.



The SBNS have also signed up to the [BMA's Ending Sexism in Medicine Pledge](#) to show our commitment to gender equality.

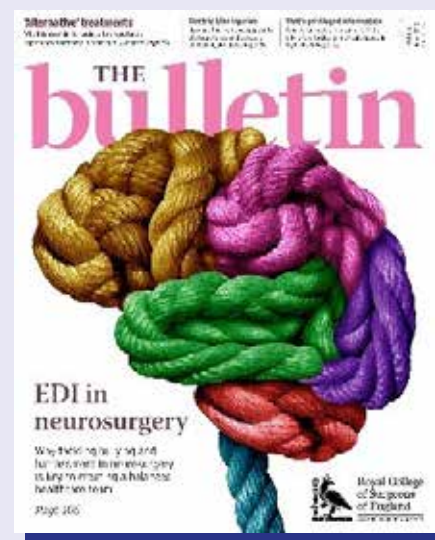


We encourage everyone to reflect on how they treat people within their workplace and be understanding and inclusive of all people. We shall continue with other projects in gender, ethnicity, and parenting.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact:

Kat at kwhitehouse@doctors.org.uk
Suzanne at admin@sbns.org.uk.

*The results of the SBNS EDI survey have been published in the RCS Bulletin - it even made the front page! To read the article click [here](#).



Kat Whitehouse
Chair of the SBNS EDI Group and SBNS
Council Member

National Neurosurgical Audit Programme Update



We are delighted to announce that the 2024 NNAP Annual report is now available for downloading on the SBNS website under NNAP section, [Reports and Publications](#).

It combines several national analyses pertinent to neurosurgical activity, training and registries and we hope that the data is of interest to a wide variety of neurosurgeons. This is the first iteration of what we intend to be an annual report, to partner the mortality benchmarking data that NNAP has been publishing for some years. As such, there may be aspects of neurosurgical practice that we will not have covered, and we would be keen to hear from the SBNS membership as to further avenues to explore in future reports. Please send your suggestions to the SBNS office admin@sbns.org.uk.

Special thanks go to Daniel Thompson, NNAP fellow, and Adam Williams, Co-chair NNAP for the huge amount of effort that has gone into producing this report, and to my predecessor Nick Philips for his wisdom and advice. There is a wide variety of other contributors, not limited to, members of the SBNS Council, SAC, national neurosurgical registry providers and several partner organisations. We look forward to seeing you all at the next SBNS meeting in Birmingham, where we can provide a further update on ongoing NNAP work.

Adel Helmy, SBNS NNAP Chair

National Simulation Training Courses (formally known as Bootcamps)

ST1

The ST1 Training Course for new recruits will take place in Preston, 19 - 22 August 2024.

If you would like to take part, please ask your TPD to contact the organisers in Preston with your details as early as possible and arrange for appropriate study leave. You will then receive an invitation for the event.

Arup Ray, National Selection Lead

ST3

The next annual ST3 High-Fidelity Stimulation Training Camp will take place 7 - 11 October 2024 in Coventry, West Midlands, UK. This will be the second course we are running this year, to bring back the course dates to as close as possible to the start of the ST3 training year, respecting the dates for ST1 Simulation Camp in August.

The course is fully endorsed and governed by the Neurosurgery SAC with additional support and endorsement by the SBNS.

All ST3 trainees holding a National Training Number in the UK & Ireland are strongly encouraged to book their study leave ASAP, and register for the course at:

<https://uhmeded.uhcnw.nhs.uk/Surgical-Training-Centre/WMSTC-Courses/Simulation-Course-in-Neurosurgery>

I would like to also extend a warm invitation to all Neurosurgery Consultants from around the UK & Ireland to attend and participate as Faculty Members. Any level of commitment from 1 day to all 5 days would be most welcome - please contact:

- SAC LM & ST3/ANP/PA Simulation Lead - Sandeep.Solanki@uhcnw.nhs.uk
- Course Administrator - Rachel.Davies2@uhcnw.nhs.uk

We shall endeavour to provide accommodation if required. It would be nice to have Consultant representation from each of the neurosurgical units around the UK & Ireland.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Coventry very soon!

Sandeep Solanki, SAC LM & ST3/ANP/PA Simulation Lead

ST7/8

The ST7/8 Bootcamp, aka finishing school, runs every other year - the next one will be in 2025. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Kat Whitehouse, SBNS Council Member, & SBNS EDI Chair

ST6

A pilot is planned for spring next year. Watch this space!

BrainSchool - Why not join us?



“Independent, informal, inspiring” – BrainSchool is an ongoing series of neurosurgery seminars, which has run independently of any other organisation for the last 16 years. It provides a fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge, network with leading experts in the field, and collaborate with the neurosurgery community.

Its home is at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London where you can attend in person on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm (except August or December). Enquire at the front desk and you will be directed to our room. You can also join us remotely via Zoom!

BrainSchool is primarily aimed at senior trainees, but attracts all those interested in neurosurgery, from medical student to consultant, from all over London and beyond. The educational events feature a stellar lineup of speakers from the UK and around the globe, bringing diverse insights from a wide variety of sub-specialties within neurosurgery and its allied specialties.

To find out more head to the BrainSchool Website (www.brainschool.co.uk), or look for us on:



[x.com](https://www.x.com)



[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/brainschool)

We look forward to seeing at the next session!

Lewis Thorne
SBNS Council Member

GAIN: Great Britain and Ireland Neurosurgery Teaching Programme

This is being launched by Health Education England as part of a pan-surgical training agenda, wherein each surgical speciality will develop its own online training programme on a national scale to complement pre-existing local/regional teaching as well as standardise access to core teaching across all regions. Andrew Edwards-Bailey, ST4 Trainee, is leading on the Neurosurgery element of this and he hopes it will be a useful addition to training which will complement the impressive work done by platforms such as eBrain and the Brainschool series.

The programme is open to all neurosurgical trainees in the UK and Republic of Ireland (NTN trainees and non-NTN trainees alike including trust grade and locally employed doctors in neurosurgery).

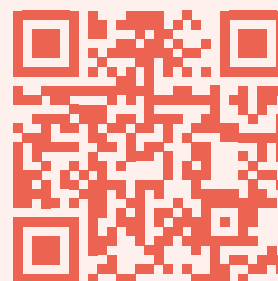
In the fullness of time, the aim is to have a library of resources, live sessions, operative videos, mock exams, MCQs etc., but in the short term they are starting with monthly webinars which will be broadcast live via teams, and then stored for people to watch later the Postgraduate virtual learning environment (PGVLE).

The details of the webinar sessions are:

- Starting in September 25th & 26th 2024* (*these dates may change).
- 2 x 2 hour teaching sessions per month
- Will run 5 - 7pm on the last Wednesday and Thursday of the month
- Multiple expert speakers per session
- Run via Teams and accessed via the PGVLE
- Recordings of the talks will be stored on the PGVLE to be re-watched at any time
- Certificates will be provided only for attendance at the live session.
- Will cover the national neurosurgery curriculum, aiming to be at a level of knowledge required for the FRCS exam.



To attend the sessions and access the programme, you will need to be given access to the PGVLE. To register for this, you will need to complete the survey at <https://forms.office.com/e/a4iHSDCYSC> or scan the QR code below:



Updates and more information will also be shared out on social media:



Gainteaching@gmail.com



@GAINProgram

Andrew Edwards-Bailey,
Neurosurgery ST4 Trainee
National Online Training Fellow for
Neurosurgery

77th World Health Assembly: Advocating for Neurosurgical Care (SBNS Joins G4 Alliance!)

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the World Health Organisation's decision-making body, this is a forum through which member states of the WHO set key health policies and priorities on a global level. The WHA meets annually, deciding on high-level policy questions and approving the WHO work programme for the coming year.

The 77th World Health Assembly took place in Geneva at the end of May 2024. Representation from the SBNS was present at this annual meeting and at several satellite events pertaining to advocating for and advancing global surgical care.

A series of key events focussed on surgical care strengthening and advocacy took place.

Firstly, the SBNS became the latest member to join the G4 Alliance, a coalition of associations and organisations across the globe working towards increasing awareness, advocating, shaping policy and mobilising resources to ensure that everyone has access to essential surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia (SOTA) care whenever needed across all corners of the world. The SBNS is grateful to Gail Rosseau, Chair of the G4 Alliance Board, for the invitation to join the alliance.

Peter Hutchinson, SBNS President Elect, represented the SBNS at the G4 meeting. The meeting was also attended by other members of the NIHR Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury including Sara Venturini (UK), Tommi Korhonen (Oulu, Finland) and Tariq Khan and Almas Khattak (Peshawar, Pakistan). The G4 Alliance welcomed the SBNS to their coalition, and the SBNS is now part of a wider international interdisciplinary alliance with a focus on improving global surgical access. This is an important milestone for the SBNS, aligning with its recent Global Neurosurgery initiative led by Mr Nigel Mendoza, and recent efforts to expand partnerships and collaborations internationally.



L-R: Andreas Rubiano (Colombia), Othman Kiloloma (Tanzania), Peter Hutchinson (UK), Sara Venturini (UK), Alfredo Borrero (Ecuador), Roxanna Garcia (USA), Tariq Khan (Pakistan), Gail Rosseau (USA)

The G4 Alliance Outreach Day included discussions on important themes including around surgical health system strengthening, referral pathways for improved surgical care, the role of surgery in the wider battle against non-communicable diseases, and the essential role of data to drive advocacy and policy efforts.

The neurosurgical presence at this and other WHA side events was strong, with more than 15 neurosurgeons from a wide range of countries being present and engaging in discussions with stakeholders, organisations and other healthcare professionals. Pertinent to neurosurgery, key conditions accounting for a significant portion of the global burden of disease were highlighted, including traumatic brain injury, stroke and congenital anomalies. Tariq Khan and Peter Hutchinson gave a joint presentation on the concept of making TBI a notifiable disease and the GEO-TBI registry.

Other key events to highlight are the 'Revolutionising Global Health: A Call to Action for Multisectoral Collaboration to Tackle Non-Communicable Diseases with Surgical Intervention and Achieve Sustainable Development Global Health Goals' event hosted by Mission Thrombectomy, American Heart Association, WFSA, G4 Alliance, Smile Train. This event had a strong focus on tackling stroke and acquired brain injury.

The Global Surgery Foundation held an insightful event on 'Unleashing Powerful

Partnerships for Women's Health Equity', where surgical care was highlighted as an essential component of achieving a strong health system.

A focus on children's surgery also featured in the 'Congenital Anomalies and Universal Health: Leaving No One Behind' event hosted by the Children's HeartLink, again highlighting the need for surgery as part of the management of congenital anomalies.

The NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery delivered a side event entitled 'Strengthening health systems across the world through surgery' focussing on how surgery can strengthen whole systems healthcare.

The importance of high-quality surgical data was the focus of the event 'Data-Driven Transformation: The Operative Encounter Registry' held by the G4 Alliance and partners, discussing the implementation of the operative encounter registry.

Overall, existing relationships were strengthened, and new partnerships formed, and as the 77th WHA ends, the SBNS looks forward to working with the G4 Alliance and its partner organisations with a unified voice advocating for stronger, safe, surgical care systems.

Ms Sara Venturini
Specialty Registrar in Neurosurgery and
Professor Peter Hutchinson,
President Elect, SBNS

SBNS Birmingham 2024

Preparations are now underway for the SBNS Autumn meeting which will take place at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham, 24th - 27th September 2024. The event will be hosted by our SBNS Colleagues at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. We are also pleased to announce that the [Belgian Society of Neurosurgery](#) and the [British Neuro Oncology Group \(BNOS\)](#) will be joining the meeting as our invited guests.



BNOS will host a half day meeting on Tuesday 24th 12:00 – 18:00, anyone who is interested in finding out more about Neuro Oncology and BNOS can attend. Registration for this event is FREE! However, you must pre-register using the link on the [sub-specialty tab](#) on the conference page.

The Oncology theme will continue into the main meeting as on Wednesday morning the Lifelong Learning Session - Tissue is the Issue: Neurosurgeons role in the future of precision medicine, will also be on Neuro Oncology with Mustafa Khasraw, Professor of Medical Oncology, Duke University and Duke Cancer Centre, South Carolina, USA and Prof Susan Short, President of BNOS as a keynote speakers.

The academic programme of the main meeting is crammed full of a variety of interesting talks on all aspects of neurosurgery. There will also be four Eponymous lectures, Hot Topic sessions covering: The Future of the Surgical Workforce, NNAP/NCIP Updates and



Results of the SCIL Trial. Spencer Hampton from the host unit will be running a workshop for Neuro Theatre Nurses on Wednesday afternoon. This will be followed by a free paper session for Allied Health workers, a first for the SBNS!

As usual there will be Free Paper sessions on various neurosurgical topics, each headed by a plenary talk given by an expert in that field, Electronic Poster displays, breakfast seminars and much more!

The SBNS AGM will be held on Thursday 26th September in the afternoon – please try to attend as there will be some important issues discussed, including approval of the revised SBNS Constitution.

We have a great social programme laid on, commencing with a Welcome Reception at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium, a great opportunity to network, catch up with colleagues and hopefully make some new ones! Food and drinks are included in the registration fee and there will be a shuttle bus back to the hotels and to the venue every morning. The formal Gala dinner will be at the iconic Library of Birmingham that is a short walk from the conference hotel in the heart of the city. The library is famous for its stunning modern architecture and has been described as one the largest public cultural spaces in Europe and the largest Library in the UK! Our guests will be seated in the very heart of the building, with its atmospheric floor to ceiling book-lined walls. We could not think of a better location for an SBNS Gala Dinner in this famous city. Prof. Peter Hutchinson will be inaugurated as the SBNS President at the

Dinner and takes over the reins from Prof. Peter Whitfield.

The ticket price of £90.00 includes a 3-course meal, fine wines, and entertainment. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment. Dress code – Black Tie/Decorations/National Dress.



To find out more about the meeting please visit the [Birmingham 2024 conference page on the SBNS Website](#). The early bird registration closes on Wednesday 18th September - after that onsite fees will apply. Accommodation can also be reserved and booked via the website.

We look forward to welcoming you to the vibrant city of Birmingham in September 2024.

SBNS Spring Meeting - Edinburgh



The SBNS Spring 2024 meeting was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, in the heart of Scotland's capital and was a great success both academically and socially. This was largely due to the high standard of presentations and high calibre of the speakers. The [Societa Italiana di Neurochirurgia \(SINCH\)](#) joined our meeting as invited guests, seven of their nominated speakers gave plenary talks and their President delivered the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture. The British Neurovascular Group also joined the meeting and ran a half day sub-specialty meeting prior to the start of the Main conference. Their meeting focused on neurovascular registries and the [Model Hospital System \(GIRFT\)](#).



Main Meeting

Day 1

The Neurovascular theme continued in the main meeting as the conference opened with a Lifelong Learning Session which focused on Vascular surgery. The Lifelong Learning Session is a regular feature at our meetings and is an ideal way for delegates to be updated on the chosen topic.

The guest speakers: Johann DuPlessis, Drahoslav Sokol, Ian Anderson, Nihal Gurusinghe and Marco Cenzato delivered some interesting talks, covering a variety of topics: INR Practice, Acute ischaemia in MoyaMoya disease, SAH, AVMs and training.



Vascular Lifelong Learning Speakers

The Welcome Address was given by the SBNS President, and the conference host, Imran Liaquat, a consultant from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The Sir Victor Horsley Lecture entitled "Micro neurosurgery: reflections from the past guiding the future." was given by Ioannis Foyas, a senior member from the host unit.



Ioannis Foyas

The opening free paper session was on 'Global Neurosurgery' and chaired by Nigel Mendoza, the chair of the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative. This topic is something the SBNS is very passionate about, and our Global Neurosurgery Committee has a lot of projects in the pipeline. Carl Bruce and Mark Morgan travelled from Jamaica to launch the Caribbean/SBNS Exchange Fellowship.



Sustainability within neurosurgery was another key topic addressed at the meeting. Contributors to this session were Ewan Jack, Rose Ingleton and Russell Andrews from the USA.

The Welcome Reception was held at the Dynamic Earth Science Centre. At the start of the evening delegates had an

opportunity to view the scientific exhibits whilst enjoying their welcome drinks before sitting down to a delicious buffet dinner, and while the drinks flowed, our delegates were entertained by a live band of neurosurgeons from the Scottish units, playing an eclectic mix of music: Indian, Opera and of course Scottish!



Early Morning Joggers or Knobby Knees Competition?



Global Neurosurgery!



A Scottish Boy Band with many talents entertained us at the Welcome Reception

Day 2

For the early risers, a 5 km run around the streets of Edinburgh was arranged to get the energy flowing. The meeting commenced with a Breakfast Seminar sponsored by Insightec entitled: MRgFUS: Restoring Order to Movement & New Frontiers in Neurosurgery.

The Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture was given by Prof. Maurizio Fornari, President of SINCH. His talk was on comprehensive management of spinal cord tumours. The feedback was excellent.



Maurizio Fornari

The day ended with a Gala Dinner at the National Museum of Scotland, which is one of Edinburgh’s top visitor attractions. Our guests were piped into dinner which was held in the fabulous main hall with its ‘birdcage’ structure, delicate cast-iron balconies, and a soaring glass roof. After a delicious dinner, prize giving and toasts the dance floor began to fill up as we were entertained by yet another band of multi-talented Neurosurgeons, aptly named “The Nutcrackers”!

Day 3

Kicked off with another morning run (there were fewer takers due to excessive partying the night before). I am pleased to say more delegates managed to rise for the Breakfast Seminar, which was sponsored by Integra/Codman - From ICP to ICMore - The Role of Advanced Analytics.

The next session covered yet another Hot Topic - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Neurosurgery. It was led by Kathrin Whitehouse, the SBNS EDI Chair, who presented the results of the Sexual Misconduct in Neurosurgery Survey which all attendees were encouraged to complete throughout the meeting. Other speakers in this session were: Carrie Newlands who

spoke on the recent publication “Sexual Misconduct in Healthcare - Breaking the Silence”, Silvia Hernandez-Durain from Germany - “The Glass Ceiling for Underrepresented Minorities in European Neurosurgery” and the SBNS President, Prof. Whitfield who covered - Avoiding collective normalisation and collusive permission: the SBNS Code for Conduct at Conferences. It was truly a thought-provoking session.



EDI Speakers - Peter, Kat, Carrie & Silvia

The final eponymous lecture, the Sir High Cairns Lecture, was given by Professor Sethu Vijayakumar, entitled “From Automation to Autonomy: Machine Learning for Next - generation Robotics” and gave a fascinating insight into the future of surgery.

The SBNS would like to say a big thank you to all who contributed to make this such an enjoyable and memorable meeting.



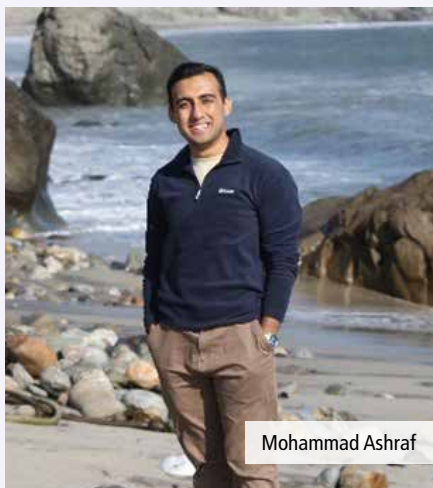
Sethu Vijayakumar

More on pages 18, 19 & 20

SBNS Spring Meeting - Edinburgh

Prize Winners

The standard of presentations was exceptional at this meeting and the following prizes were awarded:



Best Oral

Mohammad Ashraf

The poor man's Teflon: microvascular decompression utilising autologous muscle for classic trigeminal neuralgia



Best Short Oral

Carly Grandidge

Effect of a dedicated neurovascular team on training and management of patients with SAH



Best Electronic Poster

Hugo Layard Horsfall

Intracranial brain-computer interfaces: a scoping review

The winners will be invited to the Gala Dinner in Birmingham to receive their certificates from the SBNS President.

Congratulations to all presenters!

Recordings and Presentations



If you missed any of the sessions presented at the Edinburgh Meeting or want a second viewing the recordings are now available via the Talking Slides site. Simply access the site through the link below: <https://sbns.talkingslideshd.com/home>

To view the photos taken at the meeting [click here](#).

If you would like to purchase prints of any of the photos, please contact:

John Murray
07804 610179
www.pnjphotography.com

Photo Gallery

The Welcome Reception



More on page 19!

The President's Dinner



Our Italian Speakers from SINCH, SBNS President and President Elect

The Welcome Reception



Ex and future SBNS Presidents in matching shirts

The Gala dinner



SINCH & SBNS Presidents



All dressed up and looking beautiful for the SBNS Gala Dinner



Carl Bruce, Mark Morgan, Simon Thomson and David Baxter
(All involved in setting up the Jamaican Fellowships as part of the GNI)

More on page 20!



Prize Winners - Congratulations



The Nutcrackers!



Neuro-Rockstar!



The New SBNS Meetings Secretary, Sam & SAC Chair - Donald



Ellie & Catherine with Academic Chair - Jenks aka Spiderman!



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Dates for your diary

SBNS MEETINGS

[SBNS Autumn Meeting 2024](#)

24th - 27th September 2024
Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham
BNOS joining on 24th Sept

SBNS Autumn Meeting 2025

23rd - 26th September 2025
Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol

SBNS Spring Meeting 2025

11th - 14th March 2025
The ICC Belfast (Waterfront), Belfast

SBNS Spring Meeting 2026

Joint SBNS/BNRG Meeting
14th - 17th April 2026
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate



SBNS100

The SBNS will be celebrating its 100 year Anniversary in 2026 and we plan to have a celebratory meeting in place of our Autumn meeting in **October 2026** in London. Mark your diaries!

We plan to invite International Neurosurgical Societies and other neuro science groups/associations and showcase what the SBNS has achieved over the past 100 years.



EXTERNAL MEETINGS



International Neurotrauma Society meeting (INTS)

3rd - 8th September 2024
Cambridge
www.neurotrauma2024.com

The SBNS will have a stand – please come and say hello!



Neurosurgeons Association of Sri Lanka Annual Meeting

14th - 15th February 2025

The SBNS are invited guests

Further information to follow – mark your diary!



[EANS 2024](#)

13th - 17th October 2024
Abstract line now open
www.eanscongress.org/

Details for these meetings and various other meetings and courses please visit the [Conference pages](#) on and [Dates for your Diary Section](#) on the SBNS website (<http://www.sbns.org.uk/>).

The SBNS Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS colleagues. Contributions are welcome for the next issue due out in December 2024, content will be required by **31st October 2024**. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.

Aesculap Academy Neurosurgery Events 2024/2025



Mastering the Art of Neurosurgical on Call
Saturday 5th October 2024

Scan or click the QR code to join the waiting list!



Cranial Approaches Cadaveric Course
Wednesday 13th – Thursday 14th November 2024

Scan or click the QR code to register your place now



Fundamentals of Paediatric Neurosurgery Course
Thursday 17th – Friday 18th October 2024

Scan or click the QR code to register your place now



13th Liverpool Paediatric Neurosurgery Masterclass
Thursday 21st – Friday 22nd November 2024

Scan or click the QR code to register your place now



British Neurosurgical Research Group Meeting 2024
Thursday 7th – Friday 8th November 2024

Scan or click the QR code to register your place now



British Skull Base Society Meeting 2025
Thursday 23rd – Friday 24th January 2025

Scan or click the QR code to join the waiting list!

For more information or to book onto an event:

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