



Newsletter December 2023

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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SHARING EXPERTISE

A Message from the President



Peter Whitfield, SBNS President

Dear Members,

It is a real pleasure to be able to write the President's column for the Winter newsletter. I wish to express my personal gratitude for the incredible efforts of our community over the past year. I am pleased to welcome several new members to Council and Sam as our new Meetings and Communications Secretary.

I'd like to address the pressing issue of workplace culture and safety. A recent paper in the British Journal of Surgery has brought to light concerns about widespread inappropriate conduct in the work and conference environments. Some members have informed me of such behaviours: this is concerning, and I feel we need to change culture to ensure everyone always feels comfortable. Our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) group is actively addressing this, with plans to establish a Code of Conduct. It's crucial we foster safe and respectful spaces for all.

Global surgery remains a priority for the Society. Nigel Mendoza has been doing a great job developing a list of those persons and units interested in Global Surgery. The joint College/LSE initiative has been a significant focus, and Peter Hutchinson's research in this domain has been invaluable. Our travel awards and bursaries, supporting bilateral exchanges with LMICs, aim to foster relationships and disseminate learning.

Nigel and I recently attended a meeting in London which showcased the need for surgical provision in many parts of the world and provided opportunities from many interested parties and charities to network and learn from each other. There is immense scope for further engagement in humanitarian projects and I am confident that significant progress will be made in the next year.

In supporting the growth and development of our trainees, I'm pleased to have awarded three trainees Presidential Bursary awards. The Society has also, through the Academic Committee, provided support to several other trainees to aid their academic and humanitarian ventures.

Participation in a recent All-Party Parliamentary Group for Brain Tumours, (which includes input from Charities, patients, and MPs), allowed the Society to shed light on needs for patients with brain tumours and collaborate on improving patient care.

Discussions on the development of standard operating procedures for the handling of histology samples (to enable all patients to access genomics) and encouraging consultants to take on Principal Investigator roles for clinical trials were particularly enlightening. Enabling all patients with brain tumours to be recruited into clinical trials would seem to be the best way to establish the best options for future care.

I therefore think that encouraging SBNS members to engage in collaborative studies is crucial. The completion of recruitment to the SCIL trial confirms that multi-centre collaborative research can be undertaken. I look forward to the results of this long-term programme of research.

We find ourselves at odds with NICE guidelines regarding CT scans and lumbar punctures. Our stance, articulated to emergency departments and acute trusts across the UK, emphasises our concerns and the necessity for reconsideration

Welcome New Members

The following new members were ratified at the AGM in September 2023.

Full

Meriem Amarouche	London
Claudia Craven	London
Deborah Ferguson	Glasgow
Anastasios Giamouriadis	Aberdeen
Laurence Glancz	Nottingham
Fay Greenway	London
Michael Hart	London
Tim Jones	London
James Livermore	Leeds
Tafadzwa Mandiwanza	Dublin
Samir Matloob	Oxford
Phil O'Halloran	Birmingham
Sanjaya Perera	Birmingham
Puneet Sharma	London
Navneet Singh	London
Priyank Sinha	Leeds
Kieron Sweeney	Dublin

Associate

Sahibzada Abrar	Salford
Ashish Basnet	London
Evangelos Drosos	Manchester
Ali Elhag	London
Shady Elsayed	Edinburgh
Nicholas Gikas	Coventry
Dimitrios Kalaitzoglou	London
Antony Kaldas	Southampton
Sheikh Momin	Birmingham
Suzanne Murphy	Dublin
Matthew Myers	Sheffield
Hassan Othman	Coventry
Jahangir Sajjad	Bristol
Adnan Shaikh	Oxford
Christoforos Syrris	London
Alvaro Villabona	London

Affiliated

Gideon Adegboyega	Cambridge
Victoria Collins	Edinburgh
Thoma Constantinos	London
Adrito Das	London
Ankit Gupta	India
Jack Henry	Dublin
Hussain Jaseem	London
Farrukh Javeed	Pakistan
Francesco Magni	Buckinghamshire
Daniel McSweeney	Cork
Andrea Merchan	London
Chaitanya Soni	India
Robert Ward	Sheffield
Kevin Willis	London

International

Haider Alwash	Iraq
Ahmad Aubeedo	Germany
Gavin Britz	USA
Chrystal Calderon	Trinidad and Tobago
Andre Cervantes	Belize
Essam Ibrahim	Egypt
Prabu Raj	India
Daniela Stastna	France

Senior

Nicholas Brooke	Southampton
Rupert Price	Salford
Zaid Sarsam	Walton Centre
Simon Thomson	Leeds
Micheal Torrens	Greece/Bristol



based on existing evidence. The National Neurosurgery Audit Project is collating data on the role of LP in the diagnosis of subarachnoid haemorrhage and will provide evidence that will inform the debate.

NHS England is addressing the issue of low volume high complexity surgery (LVHC). Although the path proposed by the Department of Health is yet to be revealed, our engagement and advice on tiers of LVHC, initially led by Paul Grundy, have been acknowledged. I expect further discussions involving all stakeholders will take place and that a consensus approach developed by National MDTs will probably be most acceptable.

Workforce planning remains challenging, particularly concerning trainees not yet in consultant posts. However, our proactive approach seems to have been helpful with an increase in the proportion of appointments to UK trainees, reducing the number of unappointed CCT holders to levels lower than predicted 2 or 3 years ago. We are conscious of the need to avoid a deficit of CCT holders as the pendulum swings and therefore anticipate advising a small increase in numbers of trainees appointed by the National Neurosurgery Selection Board.

I am really pleased we have been able to run ST1, ST3 and ST8 National Training Camps this year. A great achievement: we have many dedicated educators and a wealth of highly intelligent, practical trainees.

I extend heartfelt thanks to all members of the Council (and their families for the background support) for their support and commitment. This enables the SBNS to represent our members, improve conferences, enhance CPD, and contribute significantly to global neurosurgical initiatives.

The recent elections were the most competitive I have encountered in my 30 years of SBNS membership and reflects the interest and dynamism of our members.

In closing, I wish each of you a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. May this festive season bring moments of joy spent with loved ones.

Despite the challenges, let's continue our collective efforts to ensure our patients receive the care they deserve.

With festive greetings

Prof. Peter Whitfield

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

New Appointments



Meetings & Communications Secretary

Ms Samantha Hettige – St George’s Hospital, London

I am thrilled to be appointed as Meetings and Communications Secretary - thank you to all who voted. Hutch has already done an excellent job, so I've got big shoes to fill! Despite that daunting thought, I'm excited to be working closely with the SBNS admin team and the council to try to deliver valued and noteworthy SBNS conferences for all.

I will continue to include international speakers with their wealth of knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. How "they do it" may increase our armamentarium and encourage lateral thinking. I also intend to promote more face-to-face interactions at our meetings to forge stronger inter-departmental relationships, rekindle old friendships and facilitate movement for trainees between units through fellowships and word-of-mouth recommendations. I also believe in using industry for education to keep British neurosurgery at the forefront of the field.

I look forward to meeting you all in Edinburgh in April.

Council Members



Professor Keyoumars Ashkan - Kings College Hospital, London

I am truly honoured to be elected to the SBNS Council. I firmly believe that a strong representation is essential to navigate our small speciality through many challenges that it faces. Long waiting lists, workforce planning, funding/ resource limitations and maintaining academic progress are just to mention a few. The latter is an area I am particularly passionate about. Despite being ranked 17th for percentage of GDP spent on research, UK neurosurgery is only 2nd to the USA for academic output. I know we can do so much better with adequate funding, job planning and support. I hope to leverage my position on the SBNS Council towards promotion, formal recognition, and support of academic neurosurgery at the local and national levels.



Mr Pragnesh Bhatt – Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen

I am pleased to be elected on to Council and look forward to representing the SBNS members and my Scottish colleagues, young and old! I am very passionate about training, education and the direction British and Irish neurosurgery takes, hence I am also engaged in the JCIE & JSCFE examinations and the SAC. Having had the unique opportunity of training in India as well as the UK, and more importantly having practised as an independent consultant in India, the UK, and New Zealand, I have the added advantage of fostering International Liaison.



Ms Charlotte Hammerbeck-Ward – University Hospitals Sussex (Brighton)

I am delighted to be elected on to council. I hope my knowledge and experience will be of benefit to council and I look forward to contributing to neurosurgical services of the future.

I have been a consultant for 10 years, 9 of which were spent in Manchester before moving to Brighton. I specialise in skull base surgery and I am an elected member of the British Skull Base Society Council and Secretary of the National Vestibular Schwannoma Audit Research Committee.



Professor Mark Wilson - Imperial College Hospitals, NHS Trust, London

Thank you for electing me to council. At a time of so many pressures, it is important that neurosurgery has a coordinated voice and the SBNS is at the heart of that. I have been fortunate to previously be the meetings co-secretary and the neurotrauma lead and have seen the benefits the society brings to our neurosurgical community. I am also looking forward to working with the SBNS Meetings Committee in the coordination of the SBNS100 conference in 2026.

SBNS Archivists



Richard Gullan, Kings College Hospital and Jonathan Pollock, Quens Hospital, Romford

Richard Gullan and Jonathan Pollock have jointly been appointed to the role of SBNS Archivists and are both very enthusiastic about completing the SBNS history book and preparations for the SBNS100 Meeting in 2026.

Jonathan Pollock... I have spent most of my career as consultant at Queens Hospital in Essex and alongside my main interest in skull base, meningioma and pituitary surgery, I have always been fascinated by how it all started. This has led to several projects looking at primary Neurosurgical sources from our early years.

I have developed a strong sense of admiration for the founders and trailblazers of the UK and Irish units. It will be exciting to bring details of our past to the attention of the latest generation of neurosurgeons and to look to the future as we mark the Centenary of the SBNS in 2026.

Richard Gullan... I continue to work as consultant at King's College Hospital, having been appointed to the Brook Unit in 1988, before the amalgamation with the Guys/Maudsley Unit to create the King's Unit in 1995. This allows me to have firsthand experience of being a full member of the SBNS for 35 years and an Associate Member beforehand whilst training, so I have worked within neurosurgery from the period reached by the late Tom King in his booklet, A History of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, 1926 to circa 1990.

It is a huge privilege to be asked to help work on the archives and history of our Society alongside Jonathan Pollock and bring things up to date in preparation for our centenary year in 2026. We hope to encourage members and their trainees to engage in this work and give a broader overview of all the current units, areas of expertise, both currently and historically, and perhaps highlight the role and influence Neurosurgery in the British Isles has had within the wider world of clinical neurosciences; CT and MRI being a pretty good start!

Luckily there is a strong cohort of senior members that we hope to consult to help explain the development of the current units in the UK and Ireland, with their personal knowledge of some of the founding surgeons and colleagues who have sadly passed away, but did so much to build the service, facilities, and training opportunities we enjoy today.

I sincerely hope the centenary year can be a very special event for us all, and I will be delighted to assist our President and Council in any way to make this a truly excellent venture in which we all can have pride.

We will be chasing you for the gems of knowledge you hold!

Sad Farewell



Jeffrey Maccabe, retired neurosurgeon sadly passed away peacefully on the 16th October 2023 aged 94.

Jeffrey Maccabe's teenage years in Edinburgh were challenging: an only son caring for parents who were both physically disabled. His mother confined to a wheelchair for life from early in the war. Nevertheless, he played rugby for George Heriot's School First XV and studied hard, getting into Edinburgh Medical School in 1946 aged 17, in the lively and boisterous company of many older men who had seen service in the war. He was personally supported by a fellow Heriot's alumnus, Norman Dott, later the first Professor of Neurosurgery in Scotland, becoming his trainee after qualifying.

He was appointed Consultant to the Guy's-Maudsley Neurosurgical Unit and to King's College Hospital in 1963, joining Messrs Murray Falconer and Peter Schurr: thus, King's joined in the support and sponsorship of the Unit until 1995. Jeffrey brought with him the meticulous surgical and neurologically informed approach of Dott, inherited indirectly from Cushing.

As a senior colleague, he is fondly remembered as a quietly spoken, apparently unassertive man. Kindly, and with a gently mischievous sense of humour, he was a surgical healer of great humanity and total commitment to his patients, and a wise senior colleague.

With his wife Joyce, he was very supportive of younger recruits and trainees in the Unit. The extent of his private practice was testament to the high regard in which he was held by colleagues, both in London and abroad, especially in Portugal, which he often visited in later years. We thank Jeffrey's family for the account of his early years.

Anthony Strong Senior SBNS Member

With the help of Lyndsay Slater (daughter), and Douglas and Irvine Maccabe (sons).

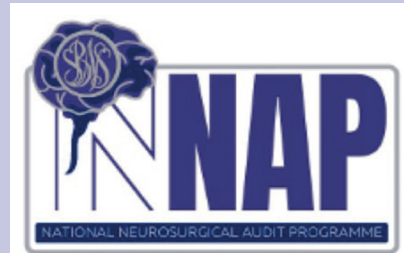
National Neurosurgical Audit Programme Update

The National Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP) is happy to have released Trust-level benchmarking data for elective mortality for 2021/22. We have also released data comparing the recovery in surgical output since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to working with Trusts going forward to better understand the variation in recovery. The nationally aggregated data will be published separately in the peer reviewed literature, on behalf of the SBNS.

We are currently exploring additional national datasets, such as CHKS and the Trauma Audit and Research Network, to provide an additional NNAP report that broadens the scope of the data provided.

Recent publications from NNAP can be found below:

- 1 Wahba AJ, Cromwell DA, Hutchinson PJ, Mathew RK, Phillips N. Assessing national patterns and outcomes of pituitary surgery: is hospital administrative data good enough? Br J Neurosurg. 2023 Feb 2:1-8.
- 2 Wahba AJ, Cromwell DA, Hutchinson PJ, Mathew RK, Phillips N. Mortality as an indicator of quality of neurosurgical care in England: a retrospective cohort study. BMJ Open. 2022 Nov 4;12(11):e067409.
- 3 Wahba AJ, Cromwell DA, Hutchinson PJ, Mathew RK, Phillips N. Patterns and outcomes of neurosurgery in England over a five-year period: A national retrospective cohort study. Int J Surg. 2022 Mar;99:106256.



Adel Helmy, NNAP Chair

Congratulations

SBNS Medal



Henry March



Anne Moore

The SBNS Medal was awarded to Henry Marsh and Anne Moore at the SBNS Autumn Meeting which was hosted by St. George's Hospital London. Henry and Anne formerly worked at the Hospital. The medal is awarded for contributions to the SBNS and Neurosurgery. They have both had very successful careers in neurosurgery and served on council. Anne was also the society's first female SBNS President.

Top Research Award - The Vilhelm Magnus Medal is awarded to Prof. Peter Hutchinson



Professor Peter Hutchinson receiving the medal from Professor Tor Ingebrigtsen.

Prof. Hutchinson (or Hutch as he is more affectionately known), received the Vilhelm Magnus Medal from the Norwegian Neurosurgical Association in Oslo, following delivery of the prestigious Vilhelm Magnus Lecture in October. In Norway the Vilhelm Magnus Medal is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Neurosurgery" and is a great honour.

At the presentation Hutch paid tribute to his team "I am deeply honoured to receive such a coveted award, which I was pleased to accept on behalf of the team in Cambridge and our colleagues in the Society of British Neurological Surgeons and internationally who work to improve the treatment and prognosis of patients with brain injury."

Hutch and his team, from the University of Cambridge's Department of Clinical Neurosciences based at Addenbrooke's, were singled out for work on traumatic brain injury, including a number of studies addressing the concept of "Rescuing the Injured Brain."

It is the latest in a long list of acclaimed work by Hutch, who is also Director of the National Institute of Health and Care Research Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury, and the National Institute of Health and Care Research Brain Injury Medtech Co-operative. He has also been very active within the SBNS, past SBNS Meetings Secretary and soon to be SBNS President in September 2023.

Vilhelm Magnus (1871–1929), was born in the United States in Fillmore County, Minnesota, and became Norway's pioneering neurosurgeon. He single-handedly established the special field of neurological surgery in Norway and was a brilliant surgeon with a broad intellectual mind. He published his first scientific paper in 1899 and his total contribution to the literature amounted to 70 papers.

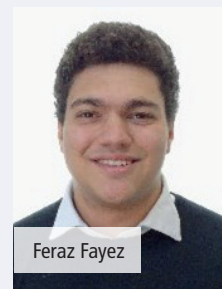
Professor Nihal Gurusinghe MBE



King Charles III & Nihal Gurusinghe MBE

In the summer issue of the SBNS Newsletter we announced that Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe was awarded an MBE in King Charles III's 2023 New Year's Honours List in recognition of his contribution to Charitable Services, particularly the Sydney Driscoll Neuroscience Foundation, the Midland International Buddhist Association and the International Buddhist Relief Organisation. The Investiture took place at Buckingham Palace on 8th November 2023 by HRH King Charles III. A very proud moment for Nihal, his family and the charities he has helped over the years. Congratulations!

Pituitary Essay Prize winner



Feraz Fayeze

Feraz Fayeze from Kings College Hospital won this year's Pituitary Prize for his essay entitled: Endoscopic Transsphenoidal Surgery for Acromegaly: A Retrospective Analysis of Cure Rates, Outcome Predictors, and Long-Term Prognosis in a Large Tertiary Centre.

Feraz will have the opportunity to present his essay at the SBNS Spring Meeting in Edinburgh. He also received a cash prize of £200 and will be presented with a certificate at the gala dinner in Edinburgh. Professor Peter Hutchinson receiving the medal from Professor Tor Ingebrigtsen.

SBNS Bursary Awards Money, Money, Money!!!

Following the launch of the additional SBNS Bursaries, I am pleased to announce the following were awarded to SBNS Members. We hope they all enjoy their trips, and it is beneficial to their careers in neurosurgery. The closing date for the next round of applications is Wednesday 28th February. If you wish to apply, please contact [Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager](#).

For more information about the various SBNS Bursaries and what's on offer please visit the [SBNS website](#).

President's Bursary

Fozia Saeed, Leeds
£500 towards her training in neurovascular and skullbase surgery in Japan

David Clark, Cambridge
£500 towards Improving neurotrauma care in LMICs

Ahmad Ali, Liverpool
£200 towards a project on, "can transcranial magnetic stimulation improve cognitive deficits in patients with LGG post-operatively?"

Fellowship Bursary £2,000 Each

Fozia Saeed, Leeds
Fellowship in Japan

Francois Okoroafor, Sheffield
Fellowship in Kenya

To read the report of Francois' very interesting trip to Kenya visit the International Fellowship section of the Bursary Page on the SBNS website.

International Conference Attendance Bursary £500 Each

Soham Bandyopadhyay, Southampton

Danyal Khan, UCL

Sheikh Momin, Birmingham

David Rowland, Barts

Sogha Khawari, Royal London

SBNS Research - Stop'em Trial is Open!

Surgeons Trial of Prophylaxis for Epilepsy in Meningioma is open to recruitment. In this double-blind RCT, seizure naïve patients undergoing meningioma surgery will be randomised to 2 weeks of levetiracetam or placebo. Patients are follow-up for 12 months and the primary outcome is seizure rate at 1 year.



More details about the trial can be found at www.stopem-trial.org.uk

The trial is registered for the associate PI scheme and trainees are invited to join [details here](#).

Participating sites are Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Hull, Imperial, King's, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Royal London, Sheffield, Southampton, Stoke and Queen Square.

Interested in joining? Please email [Michael Jenkinson](mailto:Michael.Jenkinson) or stopem@liverpool.ac.uk.

[Click here](#) to view the latest SBNS Research Newsletter.

Prof. M. Jenkinson, SBNS Academic Chair

Brain Tumour Support Early Intervention Project

The SBNS is pleased to recognise and support the Early Intervention Project delivered by [Brain Tumour Support](#). This novel project that directly benefits patients has completed a successful pilot phase at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.



Southmead Hospital, Bristol

The aim now is to expand this project to many more hospital trusts widening access to the benefits from early intervention. The purpose is to provide patients with earlier access to many forms of support via an automatic referral by the Clinical Nursing Specialist (CNS) team to Brain Tumour Support. Following this referral, a Brain Tumour Support Professional contacts the patient to explain how their support services can help them.

The automatic referral of patients by the CNS team allows a maximum reach and awareness of support services for those that need support. Examples of support most often sought by patients with brain tumours including support requested by their families and carers include emotional support, family support and guidance, counselling, financial guidance. There are benefits also for nursing and medical staff in the knowledge that wider support is available to their patients.

Crispin Wigfield Consultant Neurosurgeon
Southmead Hospital, Bristol

Supporting Women in Neurosurgery

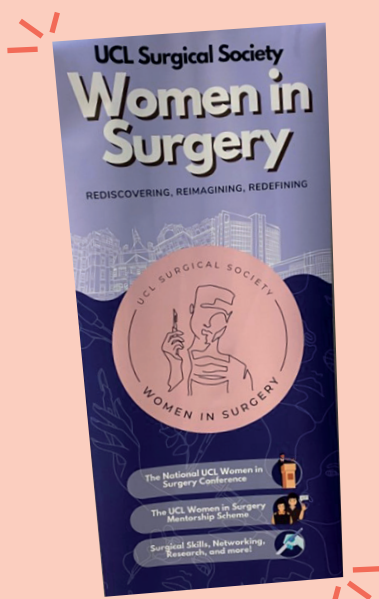
The SBNS takes the lead in supporting women in surgery at an event organised over 2 days at the East London Campus of the University College of London. The event, organised by UCL medical students, featured women both in training and consultants from different specialties as speakers and mentors.

Our society actively participated not only with financial support, but also with specialty representatives for both days as speakers and mentors.



SBNS Representatives:
Left Glynis Onwordi and right Rossana Romani

Undoubtedly there were many female students, but also some male students, who showed a real interest in neurosurgery. We hope to have conveyed through our experience in neurosurgery the passion for our specialty which undoubtedly remains one of the most fascinating of the medical field.



Rossana Romani & Glynis Onwordi

SBNS100 Anniversary Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US AT THE
QEII CONFERENCE CENTRE
LONDON
12-16 OCTOBER 2026



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BRITISH NEUROSURGERY

It's nearly here! The SBNS was founded in December 1926, and we intend to mark the forthcoming Centennial with a celebration of all that has been achieved in UK and Irish Neurosurgery in the last 100 years. We also plan to use this momentous occasion to learn more about our predecessors and to share the story of the UK units, their founders, and the key British landmarks in our specialty.

To do this we need your help!

Who founded your unit? What are the key achievements of the Neurosurgeons in your unit since then? What publications are the local team most proud of? What technical advances were pioneered in your unit?

We are inviting previously unpublished submissions of up to 2,000 words from each unit summarising the local history, the team, and their achievements. Suggested sources might include:

- Oral history from senior or retired surgeons. Why did they choose neurosurgery? Who inspired them? What were their experiences of the specialty? What mark did they make?
- Archived notable medical, operative or unit record (jpeg format). Many University and hospital archives include relevant material.
- Photographs of personnel, theatre, wards, or teams from the last ten decades (jpeg format).

There are several ways to use your material:

- We plan to publish a Centenary history of the foundation of the UK's 33 (originally 41) neurosurgery units. A submission from your unit will help us in this task, credited to the local authors. We would like to ensure that every unit is well-represented.
- We are exploring a possible exhibit featuring your best finds to coincide with the Centenary meeting in December 2026
- The SBNS will post 100 tweets for 100 years to celebrate surgeons, papers and achievements from those who were well known and also the unsung heroes, leading up to SBNS100
- You could write and publish your unit history. Only a minority of units have so far done this. Several neurosurgical and historical journals welcome such papers.

Please contact the joint archivists via the SBNS email for more information or to share historical material or your ideas, heading your email **SBNS100**.

Jonathan Pollock & Richard Gullan SBNS Archivist

SBNS Bootcamps

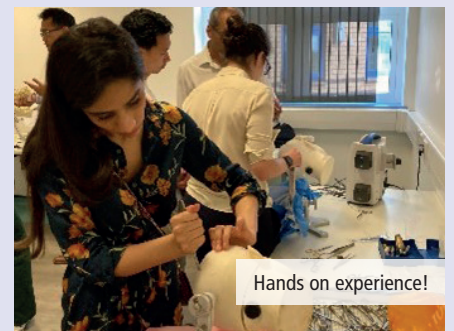
ST1 Bootcamp - Invaluable as you start off your career



The 10th ST1 simulation Camp was a 4-day residential event held at Royal Preston Hospital in August. The trainees from across the UK (19 in total) were exposed to facets of neurosurgery relevant to the introductory years. The focus was on simulation and hands-on training and the stations were set up to provide maximal experience.

There was also a great social element in the evenings which helped team building across the group. The overall feedback was excellent, and trainees found the bootcamp to be very useful as they commenced training.

The provisional dates for next year's ST1 Bootcamp are - 19th – 22nd August 2024.



Mr Ankur Saxena and Mr Arup Ray

ST3 Bootcamp - Half-way there!



The Sixth Annual National ST3 Bootcamp took place on 26th - 30th June 2023, in the West Midlands Surgical Training Centre at the University Hospital, Coventry, UK.

Twenty-eight run-through delegates at ST3-level from around the UK, attended the five-day course. Both Low and High-Fidelity Simulation exercises were employed, including cadaveric dissection,

intraoperative live x-ray acquisition, drilling, usage of ultrasonic aspirators, as well as Neuro-navigation techniques were taught to prepare the trainees for their onward journey as registrars in Neurosurgery. This year, for the first time, we included a session on Paediatric Neurosurgical Emergencies, which was very well received. As always, the course was supported by a

National Consultant Faculty, representing many of the UK neurosurgical units, for which we are most grateful for. We also bid farewell to Mr Simon Thomson, the outgoing SAC chair, for whom this was the final ST3 Boot Camp, and recognised his support for all of the Bootcamps from the very beginning.

The next course will take place again in Coventry between 29th January and 2nd February 2024, for the current UK and Ireland-wide ST3 cohort holding NTN. For those that have not yet registered, please do so by [clicking here](#).

For Consultants wishing to participate as faculty, please contact both [Mr Sandeep Solanki](#) and [Mrs Rachel Davies](#).

We hope to bring the ST3 Boot Camp dates closer to the start of the ST3 training year and therefore we shall run a 2nd course next year, towards the end of October 2024 - dates TBC.

Sandeep Solanki

SBNS Bootcamps (Cont'd)

ST7 Finishing School - The final chapter!



27th November – 1st December 2023
Bristol

The National Neurosurgery Finishing School is over for another year. We had a wonderful course with great engagement from the trainees, who now are more equipped for consultant life - understanding how they work in a team,

how to deal with managers, how the NHS works, and appropriate use of a confetti cannon, just to mention a few of their new and improved skills!

Thank you to all our wonderful speakers - governmental advisors to medical directors, and our dear consultant colleagues for helping make the course successful.

A special thank you to all the trainees who came and were such a pleasure to work with.

Good luck for the future!

Kathrin Whitehouse,
 SBNS Council Member

SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative



Since our last bulletin progress continues as we develop our planned programme.

Investment has now been made with the Diana and Ian Karter Global Neurosurgery fund of £1.25million with the intention that profit generated will be used to support trainees from LMIC countries to come to the UK and trainees from the UK who wish to undertake a period in an LMIC country. Applications for funding may be found on the SBNS website.

It is evident that there are many consultants in the UK who already undertake, usually pro bono, work abroad but we would be grateful if the SBNS office could be kept informed of any such activity so as to avoid any replication as we continue to join the dots not only within the UK but wider afield in Europe and the USA.

Following a recent committee meeting we identified the following countries and regions that we aim to specifically support, Nepal, Sri Lanka, The Caribbean, Uganda and Malawi.

An exchange programme, with the Caribbean, has been arranged whereby it is planned that two trainees initially from Jamaica will come to the UK for a period of one to two years. We are grateful to the consultants who have expressed an interest in accepting these trainees. Expressions of interest are also sought from UK trainees who may wish to spend a period of up to 3 – 6 months in Jamaica.

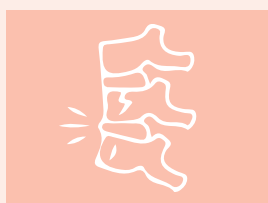
In terms of research, we have a partnership with the NIHR Global Health Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury which was established with a £3 million grant in August 2022. The Group has expanded the previous neurotrauma network to 18 collaborating institutions spanning over 16 countries working on 23 ongoing projects.

The projects are organised into four main themes: Mapping Care, Understanding Care, Generating and Implementing Innovation, and Capacity Building, with five conditions being researched: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Traumatic Spinal Injury (TSI), Stroke, Brain Infection and Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) disorders/hydrocephalus.

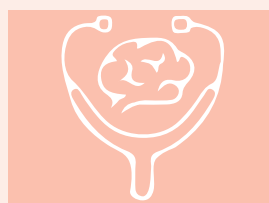
Although neurosurgically focussed, the Groups aims and objectives go beyond this to also work with nurses, allied health professionals and patients as an integral part of the working group through an extensive commitment to community engagement and involvement activities. Ultimately, the group aims to establish and develop a sustainable platform for global health researchers with significant influence on health policy and welcomes any further collaborations to expand the growing network.



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)



Traumatic Spinal Injury (TSI)



Stroke



Brain Infection



Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) disorders/hydrocephalus

Also research related we plan to establish a programme with the Global Policy Unit at the London School of Economics and the NIHR Global Health Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury to specifically to look at the health economics of neurosurgery in LMICs.

The EANS global and humanitarian committee has also had its first meeting with new members whose aims broadly map and match our own aspirations with a focus on:

- Global training courses in conjunction with EANS.
- Webinars in Global Neurosurgery
- Co-operation with continental and regional societies. Building on previous contacts, participation in congresses and conferences in LMIC. The composition of the committee includes members focused on Asia, Africa, Latin America as well as Humanitarian work inside Europe. We also want to strengthen contact with other non-European organisations working for LMIC.

SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative (Cont'd)

- Inventory of all on-going Global Health Neurosurgery Projects in Europe. This has started. We have created a template including contact information for both European and LMIC partners as well as the main focuses of the projects.
- Continue the on-going project for enhancing twinning programs between Europe and LMIC.
- On-going inventory of observership/fellowship positions in Europe for neurosurgeons/neurosurgical residents from LMIC. Promote future and highlight current scholarships aimed at LMIC for conferences and courses in neurosurgery in Europe.
- Facilitation of targeted donation. Building on previous work. Exploring possibilities of facilitating donation of equipment, i.e. to provide contacts to suitable transportation companies and recipient health care authorities.
- Guidelines for global Neurosurgical work. Practical, financial, ethical and legal aspects and recommendations. We aim to publish European guidelines for neurosurgical missions.
- Global health conference in association with the next EANS meeting in Sofia 2024.

We would also like to encourage you to consider arranging MDT meetings with a neurosurgical unit in LMIC to foster international ties and relationships for the future, as well as sharing clinical experience and knowledge as well as the potential for joint research projects.

I think we all appreciate that despite the issues we have within our own health service we remain very privileged to be able to provide a comprehensive neurosurgical service to our communities, but we have an ethical duty to try to support those who cannot. Building sustainability and capacity is key and would hope that within 10 years that the target to train the 23,000 neurosurgeons that are needed will have been met through our global collaboration. As I tell my trainees 'Look after the details and the big picture will take care of itself'!

Nigel Mendoza, SBNS Vice President
(SBNS Global Initiative)



Serbian Meeting/Centennial Anniversary October 30th – 3rd November 2023 Belgrade

The SBNS were honoured to be invited to take part in the Serbian Neurosurgery 100 Anniversary meeting which was held in Belgrade. Their President, Lukas Rasulic, pulled out all the stops to make the meeting a memorable event both academically and socially.

The SBNS contingent had a full plenary session which was well received. Their talks showcased British neurosurgery at its best and covered a wide range of topics: training, research & trials, oncology, trauma, spine, DBS to name but a few.

The Serbians were equally proud of their achievements over the past 100 years. The theme of the meeting was, "Focus, Dedication. Specialization". The emergence of neurosurgery in Serbia officially dates to 1923 when Milivoje Kostic, one of the pioneers in the field of surgery in this region, performed his first surgical treatment of a pituitary tumour via the nose.

The whole meeting was a dazzling selection of the best of current world neurosurgery, with aspirations for the future and considerable respect for the past, very apt as we were there to celebrate 100 years of neurosurgery in Serbia. It is a testament to the charisma of the host, Lukas Rasulic, that so many international luminaries attended; he worked extremely hard to ensure that a mind-bending nine parallel sessions went without a hitch.

The Serbian Society also laid on some wonderful "networking sessions" throughout the meeting. Attendees were treated to delicious local cuisine, "liquid refreshments" and a specular cabaret at the famous Lafayette Club. The SBNS contingent yet again displayed considerable enthusiasm and worked doggedly far into the night thinking of ideas for the SBNS's 100 Anniversary meeting in 2026.



Meetings and Communications Team

SBNS Autumn Meeting in London



The SBNS Autumn 2024 was yet another triumph. It was held at Twickenham Rugby Stadium, famed for world cup matches and it can now add hosting one of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons' most successful conferences.

Day 1

As this was a sports venue, the hosts thought it would be appropriate to open the conference with a Trauma Day. This was organised by the British Neurotrauma Group and our hosts at St. George's Hospital in London. The day was led by Prof. Mark Wilson OBE and Fay Greenway. Throughout the day they had an array of highly acclaimed international and UK

based speakers covering all aspects of trauma induced conditions, with topics such as Pathophysiology and patterns of blast brain injury from Iraq and Afghanistan and mTBI in Motorsport; tools for trackside and outpatient assessments and of course injury through playing sports such as rugby!

There were also talks on the best ways to treat these injuries, rehabilitation and the current research being carried out. Speakers included: Shelly Timmons, Lieutenant Emily Ashworth, Peter Hutchinson, Naomi Deaki, David Sharp, Antonio Belli, Adel Helmy, Nigel Mendoza, Mario Ganau, Tim Lawrence, Collette Griffin & Harry Mee.

Day 2

The trauma theme continued at the start of the main meeting with a lifelong learning session on spinal cord injury. This included talks on surgical management, anaesthetic considerations, and the role of successful rehabilitation in optimising outcomes. There was also a moving talk by a patient who has made a remarkable recovery after a serious spinal injury.



Henry Marsh MBE

The opening guest lecture was delivered by Henry Marsh MBE, a retired Consultant Neurosurgeon and world-famous author. He spoke about his 40-year career at Atkinson Morley Hospital which later became St. Georges.



The Lifelong Learning presenters

This was followed by a "Hot Topic" session which covered a wide range of topics: the SBNS National Audit Programme, rugby concussion injuries, dementia in footballers and the SBNS Support Line. The Support Line is a new service which the SBNS provides for our members who may be going through a difficult time either at work or in their private lives. The welfare of our members is very important to the Society. Neurosurgery, as we all know, is not an easy profession to work in.

This was followed by Spine and Paediatric academic sessions, with plenary talks from Mr Michael Hutton on development of a national CES pathway, and Professor Mallucci on achieving the balance between clinical and academic paediatric neurosurgery.

Free paper Spine topics ranged from prevention of intra-operative spinal cord injury to the long-lasting effects of COVID-19 on spinal case mix. Paediatric free papers included the yield of minimally invasive brain biopsy, and utility of intraoperative MRI. Then followed a short oral session on mixed neurosurgical topics.

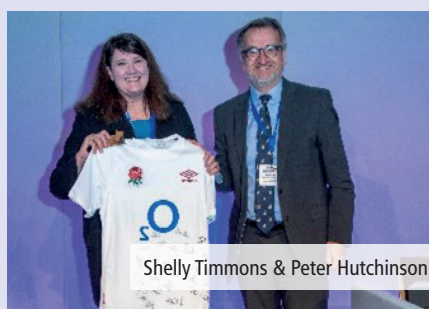
The day ended with a Welcome Reception in the Stadium's Museum followed by a BBQ by the pitch. Thankfully the British weather was kind and the rain held off. This was a great opportunity for our guest speakers, friends, colleagues, and sponsors to get to know each other and network.

Day 3

Kicked off with a Breakfast Seminar sponsored by Medtronic on Advances in the Neurosurgical Management of Epilepsy. This was followed by a session on the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative.



The SBNS is very passionate about this project and is working closely with the Royal College of Surgeons and the London School of Economics to see how we can help neurosurgeons in LMIC with training, equipment and exchange programmes. Mubashir Mahmood Qureshi (neurosurgeon from Kenya) gave an excellent talk on: *Developing Neurosurgery in LMIC regions: The Treat, Equip and Train Model to address the need* and Richard Ashpole from the UK spoke about *Simulation training and the global possibilities*.



Shelly Timmons & Peter Hutchinson

Professor Shelly Timmons from the USA delivered the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture on Decompressive Surgery for Traumatic Brain Injury, and Jonathan Shapey, a clinical lecturer and honorary consultant at King's College London who was awarded the RCS Hunterian Medal, delivered a fascinating Hunterian Lecture on Artificial Intelligence driven hyperspectral imaging for intraoperative neurosurgical guidance.



Jonathan Shapey & Peter Whitfield

The rest of the day was filled with abstract presentations on a variety of neurosurgical topics and each session was headed by a plenary talk. Throughout the meeting, we were very fortunate to have some renowned speakers from all over the globe: Prof Kostiantyn Kostiuik & Andrii Sirko - Ukraine, Debora Harozzo - Dubai, David Baskin, Richard Winn and Gavin Britz - USA, and from the UK, Peter Hutchinson, Connor Mallucci & Keyoumars Ashkan.

The highlights of day 3 were Prof Kostiuik's talk on the challenges of stereotactic neurosurgery in Ukraine, and Dr Ross Paterson's plenary on stable isotope kinetics in CSF turnover for Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus. There were also exciting Neurovascular presentations on Novel consideration of poor outcomes in SAH, a Haptoglobin expert consensus, and an assisted listening device for hearing loss following SAH.

The functional and teaching/training section also included highly novel talks such as "Can ChatGPT Outperform Neurosurgical Trainees?", and the Hugh Cairns essay prize talk by Kanza Tariq, on the "Impact of global warming on brain temperature".

Day 4

Began with a breakfast seminar on "Optimising Visualisation AND ergonomics – wishful thinking?" Sponsored by Zeiss and delivered by Jane Halliday.



Human Factors Presenters

This was followed by a session on Human Factors with interesting talks by a wide range of specialists in this field, including surgeons, a former army leader and a performance coach. They spoke on how to work within a team, cognitive style, and the science behind improving your presentations. How we behave and interact with our colleagues can have a huge impact on everyone's performance and wellbeing, and who doesn't need some help with improving their presentations? This session was one of the most talked about of the conference.

More on pages 16, 17 & 18

SBNS Autumn Meeting in London (cont'd)

The highlights included the Peripheral Nerve section, with the plenary talk delivered by Debora Garozzo, consultant neurosurgeon from Dubai, on the opportunities for neurosurgeons in peripheral nerve surgery; and Professor Sirko described the Dnipro experience of modern penetrating brain injuries in the Trauma session. Other engrossing presentations on day 4 included Oncomagnetic therapy for Glioblastoma, machine learning to predict Chronic Subdural Haematoma outcomes, and using biohybrid regenerative bioelectronics to restore function in amputated peripheral nerves.



Derek O'Keeffe

The grand finale was the Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture which was delivered by Derek O'Keeffe on the Rise of AI: The Digital Brain in Healthcare. It was a fascinating talk, and love it or hate it, AI will soon be present in a lot of areas of our lives in some form or another in the future.

The other most talked about event was the Gala Dinner on Thursday night which was held at one of London's most historic sites, Hampton Court Palace. Our guests and delegates were able to shed their day-to-day attire for tuxes/evening gowns and were treated to a banquet fit for the Kings and Queens of Neurosurgery in the most magnificent setting followed by dancing till midnight. (see photo section)

The SBNS would like to thank everyone that attended and contributed to make the SBNS Autumn conference such a success, both academically and socially, especially our hosts at St. George's Hospital, London.

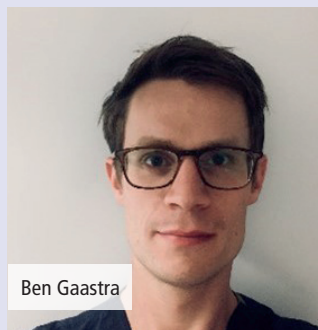


The Workers – Isabele, Izzy (local helpers), Suzanne, Alix, Carole & Hutch

Prize Winners from the London Meeting

The winners will be invited to the gala dinner in Edinburgh to receive a certificate from the President. Congratulations to the winners and everyone that presented at the meeting.

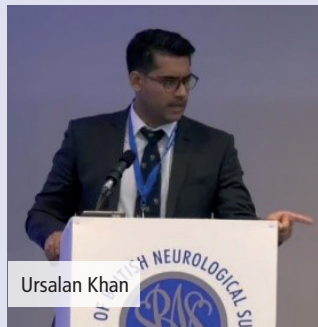
Best Oral Presentation



Ben Gaastra

Ben Gaastra from Southampton for his abstract: Hearing following aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage and the benefit of an assistive listening device

Best Short Oral Presentation



Ursalan Khan

Ursalan Khan from St. George's London for his abstract: Post-Void Residual Volume is a Poor Predictor of Cauda Equina Syndrome: The Largest Study in a Regional Spinal Unit

Best Electronic Poster



Harry Mee

Harry Mee, from Cambridge for his abstract: The United Kingdom Cranial Reconstruction Registry (UKCRR): An update

Recordings and Presentations

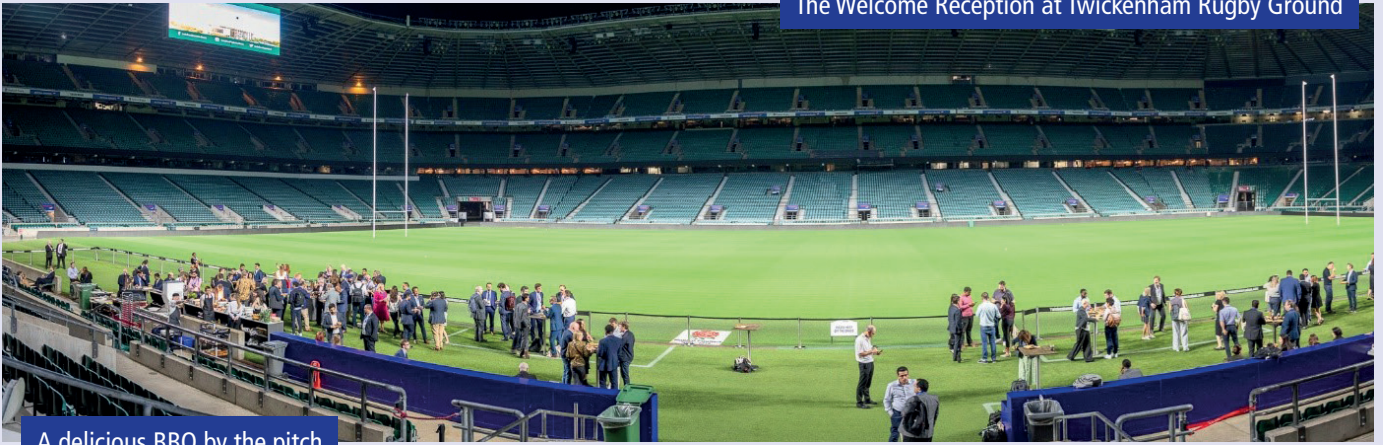


If you missed any of the sessions presented at the London Meeting or want a second viewing the recordings are now available via the Talking Slides site. Simply access the site through the links below:

<https://sbns.talkingslideshd.com/home>

[Click here](#) to look at the photos taken at London 2023 Meeting 12th - 15th Sept 2023.

The Welcome Reception at Twickenham Rugby Ground



A delicious BBQ by the pitch



Carole trying out for the England Team



Prof. Jenkinson not being very Academic!



Keep off the grass!



Past, Present and Future SBNS Presidents (the First Lady in the middle)



The St George's Mob – Thanks for a great meeting!



The entrance to the magnificent Hampton Court Palace



Henry VIII – looking for a new wife!



Prize winners



All dressed up for the Palace



Tim Jones, Suzanne, Peter, Carole & Alix



Time to party!



18th World Congress of Neurosurgery



Opening ceremony

The 18th World Congress of Neurosurgery took place in Cape Town, South Africa on 4th - 8th December 2023. It featured an unparalleled and diverse selection of speakers and discussions throughout. The congress was well attended with over 1,800 delegates from all continents, with over 70 SBNS members attending or presenting their work. This was the first time the world congress was hosted in sub-Saharan Africa, and the atmosphere was vibrant.



Graham Fieggen,
WFNS 2023 Congress President

The scientific programme was rich and diverse. It featured sessions covering all subspecialty areas of neurosurgery, including a series of masterclasses covering recent advances in each neurosurgical subspecialty, such as neurotrauma, skull base, paediatrics, and neuro-oncology. With opportunities to learn for everyone, there were pre-congress workshops and dedicated Rhoton anatomy lectures throughout the congress.

On the 3rd December there was a specific Paediatric Workshop run by Tony Figaji with the intention of developing an international and multidisciplinary group that will develop a series of practical recommendations in an iterative process

over a period. This will be in part supported by the global health group funded by the NIHR of which Tony Figaji and Peter Hutchinson are co-leads, and they hope to seek endorsement through major stakeholders like the International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery and the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies.

The theme of global neurosurgery was woven through the programme daily, highlighting important issues surrounding the global neurosurgical workforce, the role of technology and partnering with industry, sustainability in capacity building and during the development of bi-directional partnerships and the imperative role of policy and advocacy efforts.

Emphasis was placed on scientific innovation. This included highlighting work towards developing low-cost technologies to improve neurosurgical access on a wide scale, but also new cutting-edge technologies to restore neurological function, expanding the capabilities of our field.

A running theme throughout the congress was the African philosophy of Ubuntu, "I am because we are". With a focus on fostering collaborations, sharing knowledge, and striving for equitable universal healthcare for all, the WFNS Congress 2023 was a fantastic platform to connect with, share ideas and learn from colleagues around the world. A resounding success overall.



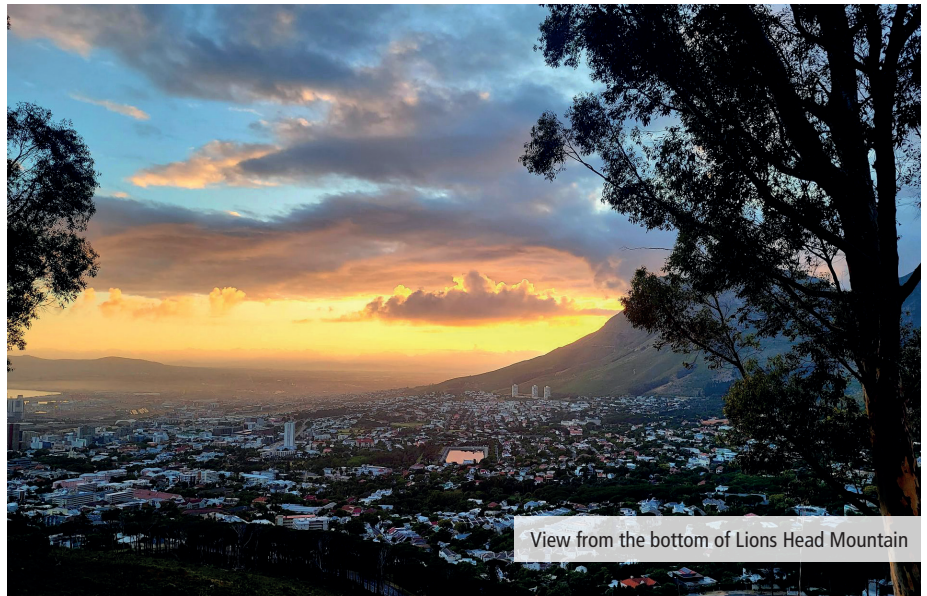
The SBNS delegation really appreciated the warm welcome we received and the hospitality of Society of Neurosurgeons of South Africa, the Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies and the WFNS. Suzanne and Alix had a stand to promote the SBNS, our global initiative and to encourage international attendance to the SBNS100 Meeting in 2026. The SBNS baubles were a great hit with the numerous visitors to the stand.



The Paediatric Workshop

18th World Congress of Neurosurgery (cont'd)

The social events and networking opportunities were all spectacular: The Opening Ceremony and networking evening, the President's Dinner and Awards Dinner. Anyone who has ever visited beautiful Cape Town will know that the scenery, cuisine and wines are all outstanding. To ensure we all kept fit after indulging at the social events the local organisers arranged morning and evening runs, a cricket match and an early morning hike up Lion's Head Mountain to view the sunrise. Not everyone made it to the very top, but for those that did they were rewarded with the most amazing views.



View from the bottom of Lions Head Mountain



Networking at Camps Bay



On top of Lions Head Mountain – well worth the 5am hike



Alistair Jenkins, Peter Hutchinson, Jesús LaFuente, Peter Whitfield

The new President of the WFNS is Najia El Abbadi from Morocco who was inaugurated at the conference and takes over from Nelson M. Oyesiku.

The Interitem WFNS Congress will take place in Madrid in 2025 - led by Jesús LaFuente and the 19th World Congress will be in Indonesia (Bali) in 2027.

For more information about the WFNS and future meetings please visit www.wfns.org

The SBNS Meetings Committee & Saniya Mmediratta & Sara Venturini

SBNS Spring Meeting - Edinburgh



Preparations are now in full swing for the SBNS Spring meeting which will take place at the ICC Conference Centre in Edinburgh, Scotland. The meeting will be hosted by our colleagues at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and they are all looking forward to welcoming you all to their beautiful city in April. We are also very pleased to announce that the Societa Italiana di Neurochirurgia (SINch) will be joining us as our invited guests along with the British Neuro Vascular Group. The BNVG will be hosting a subspecialty meeting on Tuesday, prior to the start of the main meeting and all are welcome to attend (see the conference page for more details – preregistration will be required).

The abstract line closed on the 12 December – thank you for your contributions, we received 245 submissions. Once these have been scored and selected a preliminary programme will be placed on the conferences page. We already have a great selection of excellent guest speakers confirmed:

- Sir Victor Horsley Lecture - Ioannis Fouyas (Senior Consultant in Edinburgh).
- Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture - Prof. Maurizio Fornari (President of SINch).
- Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture - Professor Sethu Vijayakumar (Prof of Robotics in Edinburgh).

We will also have several plenary speakers from SINch, our invited guests from Italy,

as well as other experts in their field, international and home grown. Global Neurosurgery, Fellowships, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Sustainability in Surgery are some of the other sessions we have lined up to complement the abstract presentations, posters and breakfast seminars.

There will also be an extensive trade exhibition with our sponsors displaying their latest products, so do take the time to visit their stands.



Dynamic Earth

The Social Programme is also going to be wonderful. On Wednesday the Welcome reception will be at Dynamic Earth, a world-class Science Centre and Planetarium, telling the epic story of planet earth from beginning to end. It will be a great opportunity to network and socialise with friends and colleagues and you may learn something too. Admittance is included in the registration fee.



National Museum of Scotland

The formal gala dinner will be held in the magnificent National Museum of Scotland. Dress code black tie or traditional dress. If you have ever wanted to wear a kilt now is your chance. Book your tickets early, as this will be a popular event. It is in a great location and there will be delicious food, wine and maybe a wee dram or two! It goes without saying there will be Scottish dancing as part of the entertainment so start practicing your dance moves over the festive season.

For regular updates on the meeting, info on registration and accommodation please visit the Edinburgh24 conference page on the [SBNS Website](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to Edinburgh in April - the registration line will be open in January.

SBNS Meetings & Communications Team

Dates for your diary

SBNS MEETINGS

SBNS Spring Meeting

16th - 19th April 2024

Edinburgh

The Italian Society (SINCH) are our invited guests and the BNVG will also be joining the meeting on 16th April

SBNS Autum Meeting 2024

24th - 27th September 2024

Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

BNOS joining on 24th Sept

SBNS Spring Meeting 2025

11th - 14th March 2025

The ICC Belfast (Waterfront), Belfast

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 Nonsurgical Societies and other neuro science groups/associations and showcase what the SBNS has achieved over the past 100 years.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US AT THE
QEII CONFERENCE CENTRE
LONDON
12-16 OCTOBER 2026



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BRITISH NEUROSURGERY

EXTERNAL MEETINGS



International Neurotrauma Society meeting (INTS)

2nd - 5th September 2024

Cambridge

<https://www.neurotrauma2024.com>



EANS 2024

13th - 17th October 2024

Abstract line now open

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 2024, content will be required by **June 2024**. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.

Aesculap Academia Neurosurgery Events 2024



British Skull Base Society Annual Meeting (BSBS)

Thursday 18th – Friday 19th January
Manchester

British Neurovascular Group Meeting (BNVG)

Thursday 1st – Friday 2nd February
Hull

24th Clinicopathological Conference on Pituitary Disease

Friday 9th February
London

British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group (BPNG)

Thursday 14th – Friday 15th March
Leeds

Care of the Critically Ill Neurosurgical Patient 2024

Thursday 13th – Friday 14th June
Sheffield

Endoscopic Anterior Skull Base Surgery Hands-On Cadaveric Course

Monday 1st – Tuesday 2nd July
Leeds

British Neuro-Oncology Society Annual Meeting (BNOS)

Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th July
Cambridge

Fundamentals of Paediatric Neurosurgery

Thursday 17th – Friday 18th October
Sheffield

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION



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SHARING EXPERTISE

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