



Newsletter August 2023

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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## A Message from the President



Peter Whitfield, SBNS President

### Dear friends,

Dear Members of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, July 2023.

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. I am delighted to share some updates and important developments within our society. The Spring Conference held in Cork was a resounding success, attracting a large attendance and featuring a strong academic program. We were honoured to have esteemed international speakers, including Michael McDermott, Russ Andrews, Sebastien Froelich, and Ossama Al-Mefty, grace the event. Moreover, it was a pleasure to meet Micheál Martin, the former Taoiseach, who captivated us with a perfectly timed speech, delivered without the aid of any PowerPoint slides.

Through my experiences as a trainer and in my recent involvement at a national level, I have come to realise the significant stress and challenges faced by neurosurgeons in the course of their duties. Difficult operations, complex clinical communications, issues within the workplaces, including with colleagues, can generate great angst. In light of this, I am pleased to announce that the SBNS has established an independent and confidential Support Line to assist any SBNS member seeking advice. Emily Borhan, with her legal background, will provide this invaluable service. You can reach Emily

at [professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk](mailto:professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk) or by calling 07498 322935. I encourage all members to take advantage of this resource, as I believe it will be tremendously helpful.

The ongoing impasse between the government and the British Medical Association (BMA) regarding the Junior Doctors contract is distressing for both patients and doctors alike. Industrial action by consultants has already posed further challenges. I sincerely hope that the negotiating parties can engage in productive discussions and reach compromise agreements without delay, in the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

On another important matter, after careful consideration and extensive discussions at Council, the SBNS has written to all Acute Trusts to express our patient safety concerns regarding the omission of routine lumbar puncture from the investigative pathway for patients with suspected subarachnoid haemorrhage and a negative CT head within six hours of the ictus. Consequently, NICE has reopened discussions with us to review this aspect of the guidelines. This is a significant development, and we will actively contribute to ensuring patient safety in this area.

I am thrilled to announce that, after several years of collaborative effort by a multispecialty group, including several neurosurgeons, the GMC has published the Curriculum for training in Mechanical Thrombectomy. This curriculum, accessible [here](#).

This represents a milestone in providing the necessary training opportunities across the UK for this crucial service that greatly benefits our patients. I encourage senior trainees and CCT holders who may wish to acquire expertise in this technique to read this curriculum. I envisage training opportunities to arise over the next year.

David Cumming (Spinal Surgeon, Ipswich) has been appointed as the National Clinical Director for Neurosurgery and Spinal Surgery with Nick Phillips appointed as the National Clinical Lead for neurosurgery. The CRG is



considering Low Volume High Complexity procedures, including important questions regarding the definition of LVHC operations, the decision-making process for case selection, and the appropriate locations and surgeons for performing such procedures. Paul Grundy has previously dedicated extensive work to these matters, with input from numerous UK consultants. Given the evolving nature of this process, I believe regional discussions will be necessary to ensure an optimal model for service delivery.

It brings me great pleasure to recognise the outstanding work undertaken by Surajit Basu since assuming the role of Honorary Treasurer, both of the SBNS and TNF (The British Journal of Neurosurgery). As a result, we have identified funds that will allow us to significantly increase our

Bursary Grants, aimed at assisting our trainees in visiting international units to develop expertise and gain experience that may not be readily available in their training schemes. We are currently working on ensuring equal opportunities for all trainees, and information regarding this will be provided on our website in due course. I would also like to acknowledge Nigel Mendoza's diligent efforts as Vice President (Global Affairs) in developing a network for those interested in global neurosurgical experiences. This initiative is particularly important considering the limited access to neurosurgery in many parts of the world. Thanks to a generous bequest from the Karter/Jenkins family, we are implementing this vision.

I am pleased to share that Simon Cudlip has been elected to Council and is responsible for enhancing our social media presence. This development promises improved and more rapid communication, keeping our members informed and engaged. I believe this will be an invaluable platform for fostering collaboration and exchanging ideas.

I have been fortunate to attend the Spanish Neurosurgical Society (in Santander) and the celebration of 75 years of neurosurgery in Aberdeen. Both were enjoyable meetings. I learned that neurosurgery has been undertaken for at least 100 years in Aberdeen with James Learmonth being one of the founding members of the SBNS, hosting an SBNS meeting in 1934 in Aberdeen with an academic programme alongside a social programme. Our heritage is rich and longstanding.

Heartfelt congratulations are in order for Peter Hutchinson, who has been elected as President Elect. I had the privilege of working with Peter or "Hutch" as many of you know him, during our training in Cambridge in the 1990s. I am truly enjoying our close collaboration as members of Council, and I have witnessed first-hand Peter's prolific contributions to academic neurosurgery at an international level over the past two decades. As he assumes the role of President in the Autumn Meeting of 2024, I am confident that his leadership and vision will be a tremendous asset as we approach the 100-year anniversary of our esteemed society in 2026.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Ian Kamaly-Asl, who has been elected as the RCS England Representative, Crispin Wigfield as the Honorary Secretary, and Andy King as the Spine and Neurosurgery CRG co-opted member: I am sure all will provide dedicated service. I express my sincere thanks to Alistair Jenkins and Paul Grundy for their services to the SBNS in their current roles as Immediate Past President and Honorary Secretary. Both have worked tirelessly for the Society on many facets over many years: **thank you.**

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all the members who participated in the recent elections. Your involvement is crucial in shaping the future of our society. Together, we can navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and advance the field of neurological surgery for the benefit of our patients.

Wishing you all continued success and fulfilment in your professional and personal endeavours.

Prof. Peter Whitfield

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

## Welcome New Members

The following new members were ratified by Council October 2022 and January 2023.

### Full

Nikolay Peev	Belfast
Ian Anderson	Leeds
Helen Maye	Salford
Adam Razak	Hull
Jonathan Shapey	London
Gulam Zilani	Dublin

### Associate

Hassan Ajmal	Birmingham
Andrew Croall	Leeds
Raenette David	Liverpool
Syed Hashmi	Preston
Sandhya Krishna	Liverpool
Joseph Lee	Salford
Sami Rasheed	London
Zenab Sher	Birmingham
James Ulrich	Glasgow
Jay Kotecha	Nottingham
Ammar Kadhim	South Tees

### Affiliated

Tobias Adams	Aberdeen
Alaa Al-Mohammad	London
Sobiya Bilal	London
Eng Goh	Aberdeen
Joanne Igoli	Glasgow
Fareha Khalil	Limerick
Abdalla Mansour	Ipswich
Darius Mazaheri	Wales
Maia Osborne-Grinter	Bristol
Temidayo Osunronbi	Sheffield
Anele Otonti	Stoke
Ahmed Zanaty	Salford
Mahmoud Samara	Birmingham
Lana Al-Nusair	Bedford
Richard Bartlett	Cambridge
Shaurya Aggarwal	London
Ashviniy Thamilaran	London

### Senior

Richard Nelson	Bristol
John Norris	West Sussex
Robert Roach	USA
Neil Kitchen	London
Mohamed Abo-el-Rub	Jordan

### International

Viviane Buffon	Brasil
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## New Appointments



Peter Hutchinson celebrating his recent appointment with the SBNS Admin Staff - Suzanne, Carole and Alix

### President Elect – Prof. Peter Hutchinson September 2023 - 2024

We are pleased to announce that Prof. Peter Hutchinson has been elected to be the next President of the SBNS. Peter, or “Hutch” as he is more affectionately known, will commence his role as President-Elect at the AGM at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> September and then take over from Peter Whitfield as President in September 2024.

Hutch has had a longstanding association with the SBNS: Meetings Secretary (current role), elected member of Council, Academic Committee Chair and founding British Neurotrauma Group Chair. He also has a strong track record of leadership nationally (Director of Clinical Research RCS) and internationally (previously EANS Secretary). We all wish him the very best in his new role as he leads the SBNS to completion of its 100<sup>th</sup> Year in 2026.



### Honorary Secretary - Crispin Wigfield September 2023 - 2027

We are pleased to announce that the role of Honorary Secretary of the SBNS has been awarded to Crispin Wigfield. His previous experience as an elected member of Council has given him a good degree of insight into the complex issues faced by our profession and Crispin feels that collective endeavour can help to overcome challenges and he looks forward to contributing to those efforts.

Crispin has also expressed his thanks and congratulations to the outgoing Secretary, Paul Grundy, for all the skill, expertise and detailed knowledge he has committed to the role over the past four years. He believes Paul’s work has helped create the roadmap for future developments in neurosurgery and Crispin fully intends to keep up with the momentum Paul has created and will support the Council and the SBNS Membership on a wide range of issues.



### Simon Cudlip – Council March 2023 - 2028

Simon Cudlip, consultant neurosurgeon based in Oxford was elected to council in March 2023 with the remit to be the Society's Social media guru and raise the profile of the SBNS and British neurosurgery via our Twitter account @The\_SBNS and hopefully improve our engagement with the wider public, and anyone interested in neurosurgery and neuroscience, those in training in neurosurgery or hoping to enter training and consultants and their sub-specialty groups/societies both in the UK and abroad. Our society has not been very active in this field in the past and hopefully Simon is the man to remedy this and has already engaged neurosurgery trainees to assist him in this role.

Simon also has a busy and well-regarded Twitter account @ukneurosurgeon, and communicates with trainees, patient groups, the wider public, and allied professionals internationally via Twitter, gaining over 3,000 followers and recognition as one of the 'top international neurosurgery influencers'.



### Ian Kamaly Asl – RCS Council June 2023 - 2025

Ian was recently elected to represent the SBNS on the RCS Eng Council and commenced his appointment in June 2023 and will be reporting back to council on a regular basis.

Ian has been on the SBNS council since 2018 and recently had his term extended (as an ex-officio member) to enable him to continue with his role as our Bullying Undermining and Harassment Rep (preventing it not the other way around!). He has also recently launched the SBNS Mentoring Programme which you can read more about in this newsletter and [our website](#).



### Julian Evans – President of British Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (BSSFN)

Julian is a UK trained Neurosurgeon, having been a trainee in Manchester and Bristol. In January 2011 he was appointed as a Functional Neurosurgeon in Manchester. The unit now has a well-respected and busy Functional Neurosurgery Department with a strong Multi-disciplinary ethos.

In May this year he was elected as President of the BSSFN, a role that was previously held by Prof. Keyoumars Ashkan.

"I look forward to taking on his good work and wish in particular to raise the profile of Functional Neurosurgery in the UK, encourage collaboration between units and help attract and guide trainees to the exciting and evolving opportunities afforded by our discipline"



### Scott Rutherford – British Skull Society Base President from Jan 2024

Scott Rutherford is a long-standing member of the British Skull Base Society Council and president elect of the Society. He has been the lead of the skull base service in Manchester since 2009 building a team of over 20 professionals dedicated to the care of patients with skull base pathology and establishing the unit as one of the largest skull base centres in the UK. He has authored close on 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters incorporating a wide range of clinical topics as well as basic science research in vestibular schwannomas. He has also supervised a skull base fellowship for the past 18 years.

Scott, along with other Subspecialty Leads will be invited to attend SBNS Council meetings once or twice a year to update the SBNS on the activities of the BSBS.

## Congratulations



### Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe – MBE

Congratulations to Nihal on receiving an MBE in King Charles III's 2023 New Year's Honours List in recognition of his contribution to Charitable Services.

Nihal has been closely involved with three registered charities: the Sydney Driscoll Neuroscience Foundation (SDNF), which helps support high quality training for doctors and nurses working in the neurosciences (with a particular focus in brain cancer research), the Midland International Buddhist Association (MIBA) and the International Buddhist Relief Organisation (IBRO), which provides relief for victims of natural disasters such as the tsunami in Asia, as well as sightless persons and refugees of conflicts.

Nihal has also played an active part in the SBNS. He was Honorary Secretary 2000 -2005. He was re-elected on to council in 2006 and has been there ever since! His current role on council is as our NICE Co-ordinator, facilitating the development of guidelines relating to neurosurgical practice, which he commenced in 2011. Nihal's dedication to the charities with whom he works, coupled with his kindness and generosity, makes him a worthy recipient of this honour. We had hoped to have a photo of him proudly wearing his award, but the presentation has been delayed until October. Hopefully he will proudly wear it at the Gala dinner in Edinburgh in April 2024.



Jake Timothy, Ian Anderson, Myles Gibson, Stuart Ross and Nick Phillips

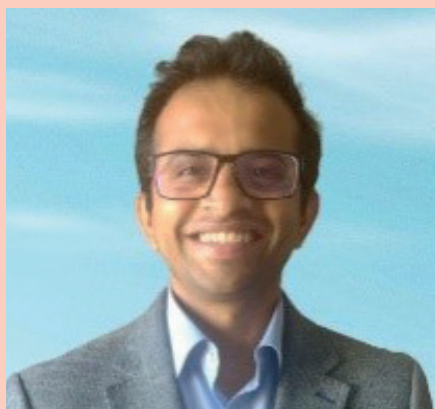
### SBNS Medal

The SBNS Medal was awarded to Myles Gibson OBE in March 2023 for his services to Neurosurgery.

Myles was formerly neurosurgeon to the Queen Mother and a registrar to Hugh Cairns. He also worked hard for Royal Army Medical Corps and continues to lecture around the world.

He set up two neurosurgical units in the Yorkshire region, Leeds and Pinderfields (before Pinderfields Wakefield was integrated into Leeds).

He was to be presented with the medal at the gala dinner during the SBNS Cork Meeting, but unfortunately was unable to travel. Thankfully his former friends and colleagues from Leeds rallied round and presented it to him in the comfort of his home and with the marvels of modern technology the memorable occasion was filmed and shown at the Cork Meeting. Myles was delighted to receive the prestigious award.



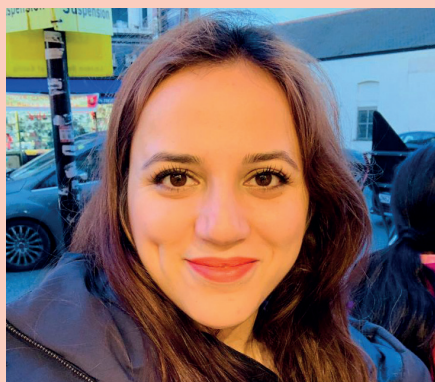
### Norman Dott Medal Winner

This year's Norman Dott Medal was awarded to Siddharth Vankipuram by the Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Neurosurgery for the most outstanding performance at the Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations in Neurosurgery in 2022. The medal was first awarded in 1995 and the previous winners have all gone on to be high achievers in Neurosurgery. As well as receiving the Medal he will also receive the Marjorie Newsome Senior Fellowship which consists of an all-expenses paid (up to £5,000) visit to the Barrow Institute, Phoenix, Arizona for up to 6 weeks (min 3 weeks) and to attend the AANS congress or equivalent.



### Jr. Neurosurgical Award - National Selection

Conor Keogh achieved the highest National Selection score in 2023. This is an amazing achievement as competition is high. The highest scorer is doubly rewarded as they also receive the Junior Barrow Foundation UK Travel Fellowship. The Fellowship is supported by Barrow Foundation UK. The award is for up to £3,000 to visit the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona for two weeks.



### CSF Essay & Hugh Cairns Essay Winner

This year Kanza Traiq achieved the double and won both essay prizes. Girl Power!

CSF Essay title - *Cerebrospinal Fluid Production Rate In Various Pathological Conditions*

Hugh Cairns Essay title - *Impact Of Global Warming On Brain Temperature*



### Campbell Connolly Essay Winner

Visagan Ravindran for his essay entitled: **Monitoring Spinal Cord Tissue Oxygen in Patients with Acute, Severe Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries**

Kanza and Visagan will both be presenting their essays at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in London and will be receiving a certificate at the Gala dinner along with Siddharth Vankipuram and Conor Keogh.

# What Does the SBNS Ever do for us???

## SBNS Bursaries

The SBNS currently awards various types of bursaries of which members may or may not be aware of. The full list and details of how to apply are on the SBNS website [https://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/education\\_and\\_training/prizes\\_scholarships/](https://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/education_and_training/prizes_scholarships/)

At a recent Officers Meeting it was decided that the SBNS could do more for our trainees and UK medical undergraduates and decided to add some additional awards.

### 1 Elective Bursaries

The SBNS currently supports 10 bursaries to facilitate neurosurgery electives for UK medical students. We have now increased this to 14 bursaries of £500 each pa.

### 2 Assistance to attend National and International Conferences as a Speaker

A new bursary for trainee neurosurgeons and neurosurgery hospital trust grades in the UK. The SBNS will award 10 £500 bursaries a year to facilitate attendance at national and international conferences (awarded by application on merit).

### 3 International Fellowship Bursary

A new bursary for UK trainees travelling abroad for fellowships. Two £2,000 bursaries will be available annually.

### 4 SBNS President's Bursary

Finally, at our recent Council meeting in July, it was agreed that an SBNS President's Bursary will also be available. This prestigious prize will be awarded to deserving applicants from categories not represented above. This bursary will be to support work of exceptional value, innovation or research. The total annual value of this bursary is £2,500. This could be awarded to an individual or may be shared between several applicants. It will be awarded by the SBNS President on merit via an application to the President.

All bursary applications will be competitive. They will be awarded twice a year. Please encourage juniors to apply. More details will be sent to members and also placed on the SBNS website. Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager will be administering the bursaries if you have any queries - [clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk).

Surajit Basu, SBNS Treasurer  
Peter Whitfield, SBNS President

## Future Leadership Programme



Ahmed Bahy

Last year the SBNS sponsored two SBNS members to participate in the Future Leadership Programme run by the RCSEd, Ciaran Hill and David Egale. Both found the course very useful for their future careers.

Earlier this year we called for applications for the next round and Ahmed Bahy was selected. We also hope to get industry sponsorship to support another SBNS member.



# SBNS National Mentoring Scheme



I am really excited to announce the launch of the SBNS National Mentoring Scheme. The SBNS national mentoring scheme has been developed as a response to worrying levels of oppressive behaviour within neurosurgery. One of recommendations of the Kennedy Report into diversity, equity and inclusion by the Royal College of Surgeons of England was to support mentoring in surgical practice. The scheme is therefore an investment by the SBNS in its members to promote support and wellbeing for all.

The scheme uses the PushFar mentoring platform which will co-ordinate and organise the mentoring relationships.

Screenshot of resource page for SBNS PushFar mentoring platform:

The screenshot shows the SBNS PushFar mentoring platform resource page. It includes a search bar, navigation icons, and several resource cards:

- Guidelines for Mentees:** Mentees should start here. The essential best-practice guidelines on how to make the most of being mentored, the expectations and the role of the mentee.
- Guidelines for Mentors:** The place for new and experienced mentors to start. Our mentor guidelines will support mentors through how they can be the best possible mentors.
- Mentoring FAQs:** Our frequently asked questions resource covers all the most common questions and their answers when it comes to mentoring and mentoring programs.
- PushFar Platform Guidelines:** Our platform guidelines are here to help participants to navigate their way through PushFar. Step-by-step in both text format and with screenshots.
- Video Series: How to Mentor (The Mentor):** Want to be a great mentor? This video series guides you on how to mentor effectively, what is required and the steps to take.
- Video Series: Being Mentored (The Mentee):** (Partially visible)

There are high levels of mental health concerns and addiction but very poor levels of seeking help with these issues in surgeons.

More information on the launch presentation from the 2023 Cork meeting:

Talk - <https://tinyurl.com/yh8ycb35>

## Mentoring

100% of the top 50 Fortune 500 companies have a mentoring programme.

Proven benefits for productivity, retention, satisfaction, inclusion and empowerment with mentoring schemes. This is for both the mentees and mentors taking part.

We have set up the SBNS neurosurgery mentoring scheme using the PushFar mentoring platform. This is not what one might consider the traditional surgical mentor relationship but a more focused relationship of support and development that often is just on a short-term basis. This will provide a confidential process with a peer to facilitate career progress, encouragement and a feeling of being valued.

The scheme will be open to anyone within neurosurgery. It was initially targeted at junior consultants but clearly is open and has value for everyone within neurosurgery. Please do sign up and encourage colleagues to sign up as both mentees and mentors. There is online training and support through the PushFar platform. Currently the platform is open for mentees and mentors to approach each other to match, so once registered, approach colleagues through the platform to request a mentoring relationship. If people are reluctant we might start making mentoring suggestions through the platform. In these challenging times, this is a real opportunity for us to support each other as a neurosurgical community.

Link and QR code to PushFar registration page <https://tinyurl.com/4jp4kwe5>



Ian Kamaly-Asl

## SBNS Support Line

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July the SBNS Launched a Support Line for Members.



Emily Borhan

The SBNS Support Line will be run by Emily Borham. Emily is a law graduate with extensive academic and practical experience of working with surgical professionals, in relation to all areas of medical law, negligence, professional liability, and workplace issues within the healthcare sector. Emily qualified in 2010 and has spent the majority of this time supporting surgeons in the indemnity world via a variety of speciality specific indemnity schemes.

Over the last couple of years, Emily has noticed the increased pressure on medical professionals in their working environment, both physically and mentally, and has decided to spend more time supporting people in difficult situations. This could include guidance on, NHS Disciplinary Hearings, GMC investigations, HR investigations, bullying and harassment issues, workplace politics, private hospital disputes, or stress in the workplace.

The service that Emily is providing to SBNS members is one that has been built up over years of working with surgeons, understanding their requirements, and listening to their needs when they require support.

If you feel you need assistance on a particular matter, or simply need to talk to someone about an issue, please feel free to call Emily on **07498322935**, or email [professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk](mailto:professionalsupport@sbns.org.uk). It goes without saying that any communication with Emily will be strictly confidential.

Emily will be speaking at the SBNS Meeting in London on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September when she will be informing members all about the new Support Line. The SBNS hopes this will be a value service for our members.

## Bootcamps

### ST1

This course will take place from 21/8/23 to 25/8/23 coordinated by Mr Ankur Saxena: [ankur.saxena@doctors.org.uk](mailto:ankur.saxena@doctors.org.uk)

This Bootcamp is by invitation only and all newly appointed ST1 trainees are invited to attend.

### ST3 National Simulation Training Courses

The provisional dates are the last week in January and first week in February 2024. Details will be emailed out to trainees when confirmed. They will take place in Coventry and will be run by Sandeep Solanki.

Sandeep is also looking for Consultants to join the faculty – please contact him or Rachel if you are willing to help.

Sandeep Solanki: [sandeep.solanki@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:sandeep.solanki@uhcw.nhs.uk)

Course administrator: [rachel.davies2@uhcw.uk](mailto:rachel.davies2@uhcw.uk)

### The National Neurosurgery Finishing School (ST7 Bootcamp)

The ST7 Course will run in Bristol from 27/11/23 to 1/12/23 coordinated by Miss Kathrin Whitehouse, if you are interested please contact her direct: [kathrin.whitehouse@nhs.net](mailto:kathrin.whitehouse@nhs.net)

This course is the third instalment of the SAC/SBNS Bootcamps. It is highly likely they will only run this in alternate years so trainees may only get one chance to come, unless they have too many applicants to cater for in one year. It is applicable for those who will be ST7/8 in November 2023.

## Realist Spine Course – Teasdale Simulation Suite



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 the Institute of Neurological Sciences ran its first Realist Spine course in the recently opened Teasdale Simulation Suite in Glasgow. Junior neurosurgical trainees simulated Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF) and navigation-guided lumbar spine instrumentation on high-fidelity RealSpine models.

The course was very well received with 100% of trainees in attendance stating they found it useful.

They hope to repeat the course next year.

Mustafa El Sheikh Neurosurgery Trainee,  
Institute of Neurological Sciences

## Calling All Budding Reserachers – Do You Have An Idea For A Clincial Trial?

Got an idea for a neurosurgery trial? The academic committee can help!

We are looking for research suggestions to submit to NIHR. If these are prioritised the NIHR will advertise a commissioned call for that research to which the neurosurgery community can apply. A recent example is the role of thromboprophylaxis in brain injury that led to the recently funded TOPS-TBI trial (in development).

Neurosurgery has benefited from huge NIHR support for clinical trials, many of which have changed clinical practice. The BASICS trials showed that antibiotic shunts reduce infection. DexCSDH showed dexamethasone causes more harm than benefit in chronic subdural haematoma.



NIHR considers that a good trial will be:

- Important to the patients and/or public and NHS
- Supported by current evidence
- Of high scientific quality
- Feasible to deliver
- Good value for money
- Timely...the research will continue to be relevant following study completion

The PICO format is a good place to start developing a trial, for example:

**Population:** patient having a VP shunt

**Intervention:** antibiotic or silver shunt

**Comparator:** standard shunt

**Outcome:** time to shunt infection

If you would like to discuss an idea then please email:

[michael.jenkinson@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:michael.jenkinson@liverpool.ac.uk)

Prof. Michael Jenkinson,  
SBNS Academic Chair

## SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative

The SBNS is delighted to announce the establishment of a Global Neurosurgery Initiative.

Why Neurosurgery? Surely there are more pressing global health needs?

In fact, the burden of death and disability from unmet surgical need is five times that of the three main disease burdens, TB, AIDS and malaria, put together; head injury, hydrocephalus and spina bifida are a significant part of this, while most tumours and haemorrhage do not come anywhere near a surgeon. Since the Lancet Commission in 2015 threw a spotlight on the disparity of access to safe surgery, anaesthetics and obstetrics between low and middle income countries (LMICs) and more developed nations, there has been a marked increase in interest as to how high income countries may be able to contribute to this global problem. It has been estimated that an extra 23,000 trained Neurosurgeons are required to meet the unmet need in neurosurgical care by the year 2030.

The SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative will focus on the three main areas of research, training and education, extending the work and vision of Mr William Harkness who along with Professor James Johnson founded InterSurgeon.

A national survey undertaken by Mr Simon Thomson and Mr Will Bolton along with separate contacts made through the SBNS has established that already many units and individual Consultant Neurosurgeons are actively involved in neurosurgical training in LMICs, but to date there has been no national network of potential collaboration. As a start we have created a list of these interested units and surgeons with contact details, which has been placed under the Global Neurosurgery section of the SBNS website. Whilst there is much on the Internet with regard to neurosurgical education with webinars and educational videos, we would like to establish more formal training relationships and partnerships. As a starting point we would encourage those who are interested to establish international monthly Multidisciplinary Team meetings where patients may be presented from both units with ideas and thoughts exchanged.

In the future, with partnerships established, the aim would be to bring trainee Neurosurgeons to the United Kingdom for a period of up to three to six months with funding through the Diana and Alan Karter Foundation, which has been set up to support such activity. We have also written to the chief executives of several hotel chains to ask for their support by providing accommodation.

The NIHR has already established worldwide links with regards to research and patient databases (e.g. traumatic brain injury). In particular, research of this nature would help inform future health policy in LMICs and perhaps address some more difficult but pertinent questions as to the value of neurosurgery as compared to other healthcare and socioeconomic needs.

As a global initiative it is recognised that the SBNS cannot work alone, and we look forward to establishing further collaboration and links with the Royal Colleges, the European Association of Neurosurgeons, World Federation of Neurosurgeons and InterSurgeon.

Nigel Mendoza, SBNS Vice President (SBNS Global Initiative)



# SBNS Spring Meeting - Cork



## SBNS Spring Meeting 29-31 March 2023 Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork

Everyone who attended and presented at the SBNS Spring meeting this year will, I am sure, agree that it was a great success, both academically and socially. It was held at the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs Conference Centre, in a beautiful part of Southern Ireland and delegates and speakers from around the world were given a warm Irish welcome by our hosts at Cork University Hospital.

The main conference began with a half-day Life Long Learning Session on Skull Base neurosurgery led by the British Skull Base Society and included international and UK speakers who updated delegates on all aspects of the specialty.

The afternoon commenced with an excellent opening talk entitled "Cushing and Dandy: two prickly neurosurgical giants" delivered by a senior Cork Consultant, Charles Marks. This was followed by a Hot Topic Session on the SBNS's latest projects: our new Global Initiative, the Mentoring Scheme for our members,

Later that afternoon there was a Spine session which included 9 free papers and a plenary talk entitled "Intraoperative Monitoring, what is it good for?...absolutely nothing!" delivered by Prof Ciaran Bolger. Running in parallel with the Spine session was a Radiosurgery session run by Mary Murphy, from the National Hospital in London. The day ended with an Oral Poster session - we like to give our poster presenters an opportunity to speak in the Lecture Theatre wherever possible.

The Welcome Reception that evening had an Irish theme with local food, Irish dancing and of course Irish whisky tasting! It was an excellent opportunity for our guest speakers, delegates and sponsors to socialise and network.



The Skull base Life Long Learning Team

Prior to the start of the main conference there was a sub-specialty meeting on Hypermobility related to connective tissue disorders (mainly focusing on Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome) with a view to creating a multidisciplinary national working Group comprising Neurosurgeons rheumatologists and geneticists.

The proceedings of that meeting have now been published in the BJN.

a talk by the Chair of the BNTA, Marina Pitsika and a Clinical Trial Update by our Academic Chair, Prof. Michael Jenkinson.



Charles Marks



Alistair Jenkins and Peter Whitfield enjoying the Whiskey tasting



Thursday morning kicked off with a breakfast seminar, sponsored by Insightec, on "Focused Ultrasound for Movement Disorder" with Mark Radon presenting results and experiences on behalf of the Walton Centre. The rest of the day comprised 8 free paper sessions relating to the following themes – Oncology (x2), Vascular, Trauma, Skullbase, Spine, CSF, and Teaching Training. Four of these sessions were headed up by a plenary talk given by an expert in that particular topic, some of whom had travelled many miles to attend, such as Ramez Kirolos from Singapore, which clearly demonstrates the fantastic commitment from members of the Society to these meetings. It's also important to acknowledge that there were more than 70 free papers presented on this day alone, covering a wealth of information and research to help the advancement of Neurosurgery.

The day's highlights were our two named guest lectures which were delivered by: Ossama Al-Mefty – "Acoustic Tumour: Hear Me" and Russell Andrews – "A Tribute to Sir Geoffrey Jefferson – a Neurosurgical Play in Three Acts".



Ossama Al-Mefty



Russell Andrews



The Sultans of Spine!

In the evening the Gala Dinner was held at the famous Cork Gaol where delegates were wined, dined and entertained by the "Sultans of Spine" – a talented band of spinal neurosurgeons who really know how to rock and get everyone on the dance floor.



Jake Timothy and Ciaran Bolger proving that Neurosurgery isn't their only talent

Following a late evening of entertainment, the Breakfast Seminar started a little later than usual at 9 am. It was given by Professor Noel Fanning, Consultant Neuro Radiologist from Cork, on the topic of Duropathies. He gave his audience a good insight into the valuable work of a neuro radiologist.

The morning continued with more free papers that had been selected from the many excellent abstract submissions. These were divided into two sessions running in parallel. One relating to Paediatrics, which included a plenary talk entitled:

**"Re-evaluation of neonatal IVH – some thoughts from Dublin"** delivered by Darach Crimmins.

The other was a Miscellaneous session with topical papers such as:

**"Gender distribution of invited speakers at major neurosurgical conferences: a retrospective open cohort study"** and generating some rather interesting audience engagement!

There's more on page 14

# SBNS Spring Meeting - Cork



The SBNS Admin Team -  
Suzanne, Carole, Alix and Peter Whitfield

Later that morning Angelos Kolias, from the University of Cambridge, who was awarded the Royal College of Surgeons' Hunterian Medal for his paper entitled 'Decompressive Craniectomy in Traumatic Brain Injury – strengthening the evidence base', delivered the Hunterian Lecture.

Our final Keynote Lecture was an address by Tánaiste Micheál Martin, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence in Southern Ireland. It was a real honour to have him take time out of his busy schedule to attend our meeting and pay tribute to the neurosurgical staff in Cork for all their hard work and dedication, especially during the pandemic and to talk about his work and his government's plans for investment in the NHS and the medical community.



Peter Hutchinson and Angelos Kolias



Wail Mohammed, Peter Whitfield &  
Tánaiste Micheál Martin

The afternoon came to a close with a final free paper session on Trauma, providing an opportunity for research studies such as "MAST Trials – Management of Seizures after TBI, an update" and "A randomized Trial of Timing to Restart Direct Oral Anticoagulants after Traumatic Intracranial Haemorrhage (Restart tICrH)" to be promoted and support potential recruitment.

From the abstracts and posters presented the following prizes were awarded:

Top Oral Presentation Prize was awarded to Rodak Ved for his abstract entitled: Assessing neuroinflammatory signaling in a human tissue model of traumatic brain injury.



Rodak Ved

The prize for the best oral poster presentation was awarded to Jake Henry for his poster entitled: Risk factor synergism in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage: A national, prospective cohort study.

If you missed any of the sessions presented at the Cork 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>

SBNSCork23

To view all the photos taken at the meeting click here: [Cork Photos](#)

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

**John Murray:**

07804 610179 | [www.pnjphotography.com](http://www.pnjphotography.com)

We hope all our delegates, speakers and sponsors enjoyed the meeting as much as the SBNS Meetings Committee and our Hosts enjoyed organising it. A big thank you to all our Irish colleagues, for making this such a memorable meeting, especially Wail, as well as all our helpers, the ESW AV team and all the staff at the Clayton Springs Hotel.

Check out the gallery  
on pages 16 & 17

# SBNS Autumn Meeting – London



Preparations are now in full swing for our Autumn Meeting in London 12-15 September 2023. The meeting is hosted by our colleagues at St. George's Hospital and it will be held at Twickenham Conference and Events Centre. The venue has fantastic conference and exhibition facilities and is located in the heart of Twickenham with excellent transport links. There is also a hotel on site, The Marriott Twickenham, which is the dedicated conference hotel. Full details of how to book a room through our booking agent, Julie Conroy, are on the conference website.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, prior to the start of the Main Conference, the British Neurotrauma Group will be running a Trauma Day led by Prof. Mark Wilson and Fay Greenway. Attendance is free and there is a dinner in the evening, but you must pre-register by contacting [Alix Gordon](#) – full details are on the conference page.

Trauma will also be the subject of the Life Long Learning Session on Wednesday morning – the focus will be on spinal injury. The Main Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September, will include Eponymous Lectures, delivered by: Henry Marsh, Shelly Timmons and Prof Derek O'Keefe. The Hunterian Lecture will be delivered by Jonathan Shapey. There will also plenary talks given by experts in their field (International and UK) on various topics throughout the programme. Other highlights include a "Hot Topics Session", a Human Factors Session, Breakfast Seminars, free papers and electronic posters on numerous neurosurgical topics and much more!

Please check the Academic Programme on the conference page in the lead up to the meeting for regular updates.

The Abstract line is now closed – thank you to all those who submitted, we have had a record high number of submissions and we look forward to hearing your presentations. Due to the high number of abstracts we have introduced a short oral session on Wednesday afternoon (this replaces the oral poster session held at previous meetings). This allows us to give more presenters an opportunity to present their work. Posters will only be display only on Electronic boards. Please take time to view them as there will not be an official poster session.

The SBNS AGM and BNTA Business meetings will held on Thursday afternoon in parallel.

## Social Events

For those who have attended SBNS meetings in the past they will know that it is not all work and no play and that we always have some enjoyable social events and this meeting is no exception. On the evening of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September we have a Welcome Reception which will be held at Twickenham Stadium. Food and drinks are included in your registration fee.

The more formal Gala Dinner takes place on Thursday evening and will be held at one of Britain's famous historic sites, Hampton Court Palace, where we plan to serve up a banquet fit for the Kings and Queens of neurosurgery. Delegates will also have the opportunity to roam round the beautiful grounds and view some of the stately rooms before taking their

seats for dinner in the great banqueting hall. There will also be an opportunity to have a boogie in the wine cellars after dinner. Please book early as this will be a popular event and places are limited. Dress code is Black Tie.

## Registration

The registration is now open and the early bird rate will apply until the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 3pm. After that date onsite rates will apply so please book early especially if you wish to save money and attend the Gala Dinner.

## NANSIG Neurosurgical Skills Practical Workshop

On 12<sup>th</sup> September the Neurology and Neurosurgery Students Interest Group (NANSIG) will be running a neurosurgical skills workshop at the conference venue. This programme is especially recommended for medical students, junior doctors and trainees looking to expand their portfolio. Places are limited so get your application in ASAP. Click on the link below to register or visit the NANSIG website:

<https://forms.gle/RnPNgeXpZFseQBDx8>

## Exhibition

An extensive exhibition will be held throughout the meeting with neurosurgical companies exhibiting their latest products and innovations. Several neuro related charities will also have stands in the exhibition so please take the time to pay a visit to the stands to show your support.

To find out more about the meeting, and to register please visit the conference page on the SBNS website:

<https://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/conferences/london-2023/>

We look forward to welcoming you in Twickenham in September.



The Welcome Reception



Nigel Mendoza, Alistair Jenkins and Peter Whitfield



He's obviously had too many samples!



Irish Whiskey tasting

The Gala Dinner



The fantastic band - they got everyone on the dance floor – young and old!





How low can you go?



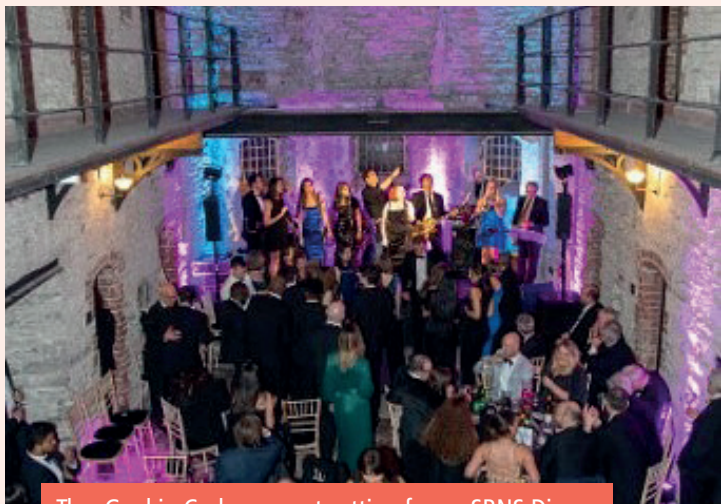
Our Host - Wail Mohammed



Winner of the best oral presentation from Blackpool, Frederick Ewbank, collecting his Certificate



The President Elect - Peter Hutchinson - he knows he has to keep the SBNS Admin Team Happy



The Gaol in Cork - a great setting for an SBNS Dinner



Mr Popular!

Looking forward to the next SBNS Meeting in London. Don't miss out and register before 6<sup>th</sup> September when the online registration line closes.

# Dates for your diary

## SBNS MEETINGS



### SBNS Autumn Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

London

British Trauma Group joining on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

### SBNS Autumn 2024

24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

BNOS joining on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept

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### British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG)

21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Oxford

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## EXTERNAL MEETINGS

### EANS 2023

24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Barcelona

### 9th Annual Meeting - 10th SNSS Congress

(Serbian neurosurgery - Centennial anniversary in 2023)

30<sup>th</sup> October - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, Belgrade

SBNS are invited guests with an SBNS Day in the programme

### Neurosurgery International Master Class Updates & Techniques

24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dubai, UAE

They are offering 5 free places and 20% discount to SBNS members.

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.



### SBNS Spring Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Edinburgh

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

### SBNS Spring 2025

Dates to be confirmed

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 **September 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.

### 18th World Congress of Neurosurgery

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Cape Town, South Africa

### International Neurotrauma Society meeting (INTS)

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Cambridge

<https://www.neurotrauma2024.com>

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

# Aesculap Academia Neurosurgery Events



## Mastering the Art of Neurosurgical On-Call

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Glasgow

## 12<sup>th</sup> Liverpool Paediatric Neurosurgery Masterclass

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Liverpool

## Cranial Approaches Cadaveric Course

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Bristol

## British Skull Base Society Annual Meeting (BSBS)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Manchester

## British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group Meeting (BPNG)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Leeds

## OUR CONTACT INFORMATION



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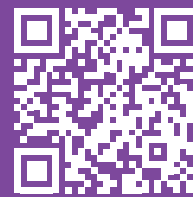
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