

From the Northwest to the Southeast, 2009 SNIS Meetings Met With Major Success!

Seventh SNIS Practicum Strikes a High Note in Vancouver!

Six years since the first Practicum in Washington DC...and this annual forum is as popular as ever! Held in May this year in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, the SNIS Practicum attracted almost 200 practitioners and industry representatives for a whirlwind tour through the neurointerventional landscape.

Stops along the way included sessions on multiple neurointerventional topics – including acute stroke, venous disease and percutaneous interventions – hosted by presenters from diverse backgrounds in interventional neuroradiology, neurosurgery and neurology. In particular, attendees were treated to the latest update on acute stroke imaging and new treatment

paradigms for managing cervical carotid occlusion in the setting of acute intracranial stroke. Additionally, the much-anticipated and potentially popular treatment of pseudotumor with stenting of the dural sinuses was highlighted during the venous disease session. The last session featured an engaging dialogue around the pros and cons of angiography in the management of sub-arachnoid hemorrhage compared with CTA and MRA. Each of these topics spurred some engaging dialogue with the audience in the discussion period following each session – reinforcing the educational value of the Practicum for both veteran and novice alike.

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Appreciating the Past, Celebrating the Future

This year's Annual Meeting was special. Not that all of them aren't, but this one took us back to our roots... to our inaugural SNIS meeting in Boca Raton, FL in 2004 and to the very first meeting of its kind in the neurointerventional field.

And by looking back, we can see just how far we've come.

Our attendance has multiplied many times over. The complexion of our meeting has shifted – along with our field – from predominantly practitioners with a background in interventional neuroradiology to those trained in neurosurgery and neurology as well... and from only U.S.-based physicians to practitioners from all over the world. The meeting is now recognized as the only forum dedicated to the scientific research and advancements in the neurointerventional arena. And, in tandem with and apart from the Annual Meeting, SNIS has grown in significant ways too, both in the resources it can offer practitioners – from the novice to the veteran – as well as the field of neurointervention itself.



But it doesn't stop there! In the spirit of a field that is ever-evolving, SNIS continues to innovate each and every year. In 2009 alone, the SNIS Annual Meeting hosted more international speakers than ever. In keeping with its mission, the meeting registered a record-breaking number of poster and oral abstract presentations. And we launched the *Journal of Neuro-Interventional Surgery (JNIS)*, the first and only publication dedicated to the

science, research and studies behind critical advancements in our field. No doubt about it ... the SNIS Annual Meeting is not only supporting our field; it is helping to *define* it.

Matching these enhancements in 2009 were many meeting staples that contribute immense value to this annual forum year in and year out. Once again, the program committee planned a slate of didactic sessions that highlighted specific conditions – including aneurysms,

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SNIS Would Like to Thank the Generous Sponsors of its Sixth Annual Meeting

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arteriovenous fistulas, acute stroke and vascular malformations – and the latest in associated therapies and treatment considerations for each. To enhance the interactive nature of the meeting, sessions on particular conditions were grouped into sections, and following each, presenters and panelists opened the floor for comments from the audience, questions and discussion.

Other popular program highlights included the Luminary Lecture, this year given by Chuck Kerber, M.D., faculty member at the University of California, San Diego and a pioneer who dedicated much of his career to the development of catheter-based techniques designed to solve complex cerebrovascular problems. The Emerging Technologies Fair once again scored high on the list of program favorites, providing ample time for industry to

showcase their latest and greatest technological advancements and practitioners the opportunity to get a sneak peek at products on their way to market.

As in years past, SNIS continues to utilize the Annual Meeting forum to generate news coverage of some of the highlight findings unveiled through abstract presentations. This year, media buzz surrounded three studies generated print coverage in outlets across the country as well as a substantial amount of online news, both of which served to highlight the practice of neurointervention in the national healthcare dialogue.

As intense as is the educational slate at any SNIS meeting, the recreational agenda is also a subject of much anticipation. And, true to form, this year did not disappoint! The program left plenty of time for attendees and their families to enjoy the newly renovated Boca Raton Resort, complete with a variety of restaurants, beaches, boats and a nationally renowned spa. Despite the slight rain delay, the Fifth Annual Golf Tournament was a rousing success (read all about the winning team on page 13), and the Thursday night fiesta offered plenty of fun for everyone, including some lively music and, of course, dancing into the night. Beyond these activities, however, so that attendees and their families could enjoy a little extra “R&R,” and in response to feedback from the 2008 meeting, SNIS closed shop early on Tuesday and introduced an afternoon of outdoor group events. Families could choose between two

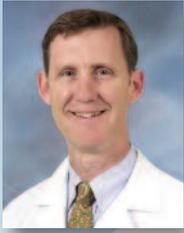
options, including a sedate catamaran snorkel sail and a more ambitious regatta. Whatever the choice, all stories in thus far indicate that both events were a hit! Stay tuned for details on next year’s outings.

As one of SNIS’s most intensive undertakings of the year, the Annual Meeting continues to make its mark on the neurointerventional landscape. But we couldn’t do it without the hard work of our members who dedicate themselves to planning a first-class program each and every year, and the ever-present support of our partners in industry. Many thanks to each of you who contributed your time, resources and talents to making the 2009 meeting another memorable one. We appreciate your investment, and all it yields in the form of knowledge-sharing for the benefit of our field and the patients we serve.

Plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting are already well underway, and the call for abstracts has gone out! We hope you plan to lend your voice and experience to the scientific advancements that will be profiled in Carlsbad in July! Please log onto www.snisonline.org for more information on the meeting as well as abstract submissions!



*See pages 10 & 11
for more photo highlights
from the SNIS 6th
Annual Meeting!*



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Colin Derdeyn, MD

As we look back over our 18-year history, we can certainly say that our society continues to grow and prosper. Our success can be attributed to many factors, but the most important one is the commitment and involvement of our members. Thank you all for your continued support and efforts on behalf of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery.

I want to take this opportunity to briefly update you on the current activities of our society. We continue to stay busy on many fronts as we seek to fulfill our goal of improving the outcome of patients with diseases amenable to neurointerventional therapy. Our efforts in physician and patient education, training and certification are all in direct support of this goal.

In the area of physician education, SNIS works to facilitate opportunities primarily through its meetings, and now the *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery (JNIS)*, our newest society initiative unveiled at our Annual Meeting in Boca Raton, FL. Under the dedicated leadership of Rob Tarr, the editor-in-chief, the Journal already has gained significant momentum. Given the amount of material being submitted, he anticipates moving from four issues per year to six per year by 2011. And the journal is already extending its reach as the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN) has endorsed it as their official journal and other international neurointerventional societies have expressed interest as well.

The SNIS meetings have been instrumental in building a "home" for the neurointerventional community. In the spirit of the meetings before it,

the Sixth Annual Meeting was another great success. Despite the swine flu and Mexican drug wars which resulted in a change of venue from Cancun to Boca Raton, meeting attendance was excellent and the program received rave reviews. Credit goes to the hard work of Michael Alexander and Jeff Sunshine, the meeting co-chairs, and Marie Williams, our tireless and efficient executive director.

Alongside physician education, we believe that an equally important priority is training.

Looking ahead, Phil Meyers and Charlie Prestigiacomio are busy developing the programming for the Seventh Annual Meeting scheduled for July 26-30 in Carlsbad, California. As we look to keep our program offerings fresh and inviting, one new feature at the meeting this year is a Fellows Course. At the helm of this initiative are Brian Hoh and Ansaar Rai who are planning for an insightful didactic program as well as ample time for hands-on experiences with devices and models, under the instruction of experienced faculty. For those of you who are program directors, we hope you will encourage your fellows to submit a paper to the Annual Meeting and plan on attending this course.

Aside from the Annual Meeting, other SNIS educational opportunities include the SNIS Practicum, this year chaired by Don Heck, and the joint programming we provide with the Cerebrovascular Section of the AANS/CNS at the International Stroke Conference.

Alongside physician education, we believe that an equally important priority is training. This year, SNIS took a strong stance on this point by advocating for training standards that include a dedicated neurointerventional fellowship. Phil Meyers (again!) led a multi-society writing group that published a paper in the inaugural JNIS in support of this position for acute stroke intervention. This paper will also appear in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, the *Journal of Stroke & Cerebrovascular Disease*, the *American Journal of Neuroradiology* and on the American Academy of Neurology's website. In line with this position, SNIS is undertaking an initiative, led by Jeff Sunshine, to implement society-based accreditation for our fellowship programs to ensure that future practitioners receive adequate training. Requirements will be similar to those outlined in the original document authored by Nick Hopkins and Randy Higashida and the current ACGME requirements for Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology. Under the leadership of Wally Lesley, we are also exploring the possibility of offering Board Certification for NeuroInterventional Surgery. A critical issue will be the cost and complexity of this process.

Lastly, I would like to call your attention to an initiative that benefits

continued on page 19

Please Come to Boston... In the Springtime!

It's not a song title. It's your invitation to save the date!



Immediately following the ASNR Annual Meeting, SNIS invites you to join us for an exciting weekend of discussion and networking... with a little “Bean Town” fun to set just the right tone.



Save the date now.
It's the best “touch base” opportunity of the year!

Visit www.snisonline.org
for more information.

8th SNIS Practicum

- May 21-22, 2010
- Westin Copley Place Hotel
- Boston, Massachusetts



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of its Seventh
Practicum

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Seventh SNIS Practicum Strikes a High Note in Vancouver!

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One of the most exciting additions to this year's Practicum was the "Stump the Experts" session – where participants were invited to put a panel of today's experts in the "hot seat" as they presented them with their most challenging clinical cases. Steven Hetts, Tudor Jovin, Frank Tong and Quill Turk did an admirable job of hosting a wide array of questions from the audience and lending their insights from their own experiences to the discussion. The feedback from attendees following the Practicum registered this program addition as a crowd favorite, ensuring it a prime spot on next year's agenda.

And if all that wasn't enough in a 48-hour period, the Practicum also integrated a little time for some networking and socializing. The Saturday night reception, themed "A Taste of Canada," afforded attendees the oppor-

tunity to enjoy a host of culinary delights amidst stunning panoramic views of our northern neighbor.

For practitioners and industry, the SNIS Practicum once again delivered on its annual promise to provide the optimal touch-base opportunity on all things neurointerventional. SNIS extends a special thanks to our industry partners who made this meeting possible, many of whom have supported the Practicum since the beginning.

As we turn the page on a new year, it's not too early to start making your plans now to attend the 2010 SNIS Practicum, scheduled for May 21-22 at the Westin Copley Place Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. Please go to www.snisonline.org for more information and stay tuned for more meeting details!

See photo highlights from the Practicum on next page!





PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Rob Tarr, MD

"Comes a time when you're drifting — Comes a time when you settle down"

It was an honor and a privilege for me to serve as the 2008–2009 President of SNIS. I want to thank the SNIS staff for all of their assistance and especially the Executive Committee for their hard work during the year. I want to extend my gratitude to the society members who offered suggestions which helped to guide our actions throughout the year. And lastly, but not least, I would like to thank my family for tolerating the additional time commitment that the position entails.

It was an exciting time to be in a leadership position for our society at this stage in its life cycle. For as Neil Young wrote:

"Comes a time when you're drifting. Comes a time when you settle down"

The lyrics in this song speak to the maturation process; maturation in life and maturation in relationships. Maturation does not necessarily mean less activity or less energy spent, but the activity is different. The energy spent when one is mature tends to be focused on different agenda items than when one was younger. A certain amount of energy is dedicated to maintaining goals which had been reached in earlier times. These earlier achievements lay the groundwork for new and expanded goals which would not be realistically achievable in younger years.

Just as individuals journey through a maturation process, so too do societies. Entering into its eighteenth year of existence, I think SNIS can say it has reached "adulthood." As we look back, we truly are standing on the shoulders of giants. The accomplishments of men

and women of the society in the past have allowed SNIS to grow, flourish and become what it is today.

But, moving into maturity should not translate into inactivity. The enemy of a mature society is senescence combined with stagnation. We must continue to work to maintain the accomplishments which have gotten us to where we are, and we must continue to evolve, accomplishing new goals made possible by the shoulder strength of previous and current achievements.

One arena in which we have achieved excellence, but must work diligently to maintain, is our meetings. The Practicum and the Annual Meeting have become the premier meetings for neurointervention. They are superb venues for information sharing and professional fellowship. Huy Do and Michael Marks, co-chairs for the 2009 Practicum, and Michael Alexander and Jeff Sunshine, co-chairs for the 2009 Annual Meeting, worked tirelessly with their program committees to organize superb meetings which followed in the tradition of excellence established in earlier meetings. The 2010 Practicum, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts and chaired by Don Heck, and the 2010 Annual Meeting, which will be held in Carlsbad, California and co-chaired by Phil Meyers and Charlie Prestigiaco, also promise to be outstanding educational events. As a bonus, SNIS is planning to hold its first Fellows Conference at the end of the Annual Meeting. Brian Hoh and Ansaar Rai will be organizing this exciting educational experience for trainees.

The new goals the society is striving to achieve are several-fold. But two in particular deserve mention. As you know, SNIS launched its own journal, the *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery (JNIS)*, this year. (Please see the related article on page 12). Secondly, and perhaps more broadly, SNIS is continuing to take initiative to establish neuro-intervention as a sub-specialty. This entails exploring fellowship program standardization and board certification, two initiatives that are discussed on pages 15 and 17.

So, as the SNIS evolves into a new and more tenured society, we are not, as the Goo Goo Dolls wrote...

*Sitting in an old man's bar
Waiting for our time to die*

Rather, to paraphrase Henry David Thoreau...

*We have gone to the woods
Because we want to live deliberately
We want to live deep
And suck out all the marrow of Life ...*

For, as Bob Dylan said it...

*We were so much older then
We're younger than that now*

I am confident that this year's President, Colin Derdeyn, as well as the Executive Committee, will continue to harness the energy of a society that, at its core, reflects the maturity born of experience and the youthfulness inspired by our vision.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of it all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SNIS 7TH ANNUAL MEETING

July 26-30, 2010 • La Costa Resort • Carlsbad, CA



ABSTRACT DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010
11:59 PM (EST)

Submit your abstract online at www.snisonline.org.



Visit www.snisonline.org for more information.

Highlights from the

SNIS 6TH ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 27-31, 2009

Boca Raton Resort & Club • Boca Raton, FL



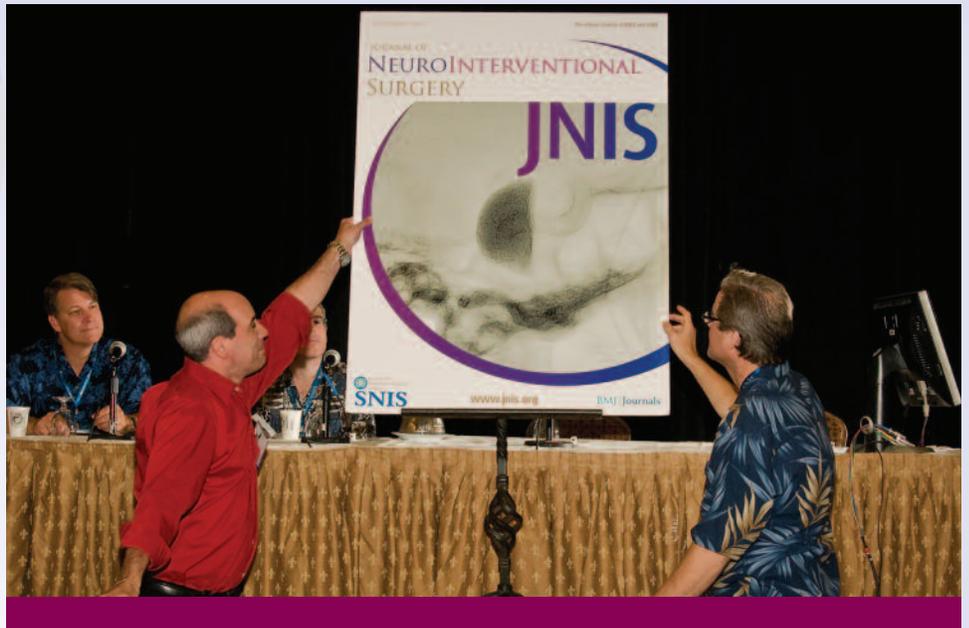


JNIS Update

Rob Tarr, MD, Editor-in-Chief

July 27, 2009 was a historic date marking the start of a grand adventure for SNIS – the launch of the inaugural issue of the *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery (JNIS)*. As editor-in-chief, I couldn't be more excited about this project. Before I progress too far into this soliloquy, I want to extend a special thank you to Phil Purdy. Without his diligent efforts at the inception of this undertaking, it is doubtful that the inaugural issue would have met its July 2009 deadline. I also want to thank my associate editors: Felipe Albuquerque, Dave Fiorella, Josh Hirsch, Charlie Prestigiacomo, and Sam Zaidat. These folks make my job easier. And of course, I am grateful to the authors who have shared their scientific work thus far and the reviewers who have critically assessed these works.

Allow me to review the history of JNIS thus far. In the fall of 2007, the SNIS Executive Committee made the decision to create its own journal with the goal of providing a single home for all neurointerventional science. Charlie Prestigiacomo was selected as Chair of the Publications Committee and at the 2008 Business Meeting, SNIS committed to unveil the first print issue of the journal at the 2009 Annual Meeting. To help us get started, SNIS hired Morna Conway, an extremely reputable journal consultant, whose counsel was invaluable in shepherding us through the selection process of a publishing company. From the proposals submitted, SNIS interviewed representatives from two publishing companies during the



Charlie Prestigiacomo and Rob Tarr unveil the JNIS at the 6th Annual Meeting.

JOURNAL OF NEUROINTERVENTIONAL SURGERY

November 2008 SNIS Executive Committee meeting and the British Medical Journal Group (BMJ Group) was selected. Soon thereafter, the *JNIS* editorial board was organized and the task of soliciting content for the first issue began.

The partnership with the BMJ Group offers many advantages. Initially, *JNIS* will be bundled with two other BMJ Group journals, the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, *Neurology*, and *Psychiatry and Practical Neurology*. This bundling guarantees immediate global institutional penetration of *JNIS*. It also allows SNIS members free access to the content of *JNNP* and *Practical Neurology*. Additionally, the BMJ Group has an excellent reputation for obtaining index status for their journals in the minimum required time period. In the past, the indexing of nearly every BMJ Group

startup journal has been retrospective to the first issue. For convenience, *JNIS* will offer a rolling e-publication of manuscripts upon acceptance on the journal website (www.jnis.org). Additionally, the BMJ Group offers the opportunity to enhance communication through web-based initiatives such as blogging, physician specific communication exchanges, and podcasts.

Thus far, two issues of the journal have been published and the feedback has been tremendous. We are clearly meeting a need!

As it stands, we are all the beneficiaries of a unique opportunity to build the *JNIS* into a journal that puts a public face on the neurointerventional field. As the editor-in-chief, I invite you all to begin thinking about how you can contribute to its progress. For further information, please visit www.jnis.org.

Fifth Annual SNIS Golf Tournament a Rousing Success!

The Fifth Annual SNIS Golf Tournament was played at the spectacular Gene Bates course at the Boca Raton Resort & Spa. Despite the torrential downpour that forced a “time out” in the middle of the tournament, spirits remained high and the festivities were in full swing!

The team of Allan Brook, John Cubelic, Josh Hirsch & Jeff Miller won the tournament with a score of 55 (16 under par). Special credit goes to John who double-eagled one of the holes!

Jeff Miller continued the winning streak and picked up the Closest to the Pin Award. Curt Stubler won the Longest Drive Award.

SNIS would like to thank Concentric Medical for their generous support of the beverage cart at the Tournament.

Anticipation is already building for the Sixth Annual SNIS Golf Tournament to be held on Tuesday, July 27 at the La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California. Start practicing now...you could be our next winner!



Pictured above: The winners of the tournament – Team Ischemia.



Missing Members

Do you know where these members are?

SNIS has recently lost track of these members. Listed below are their names and the last location we had for them. They may have moved to new positions and institutions and forgot to forward us the information. If you know where they are, please let us know by sending an e-mail to info@snisonline.org so that we can reconnect. Thanks for your help.

Michael A. Arata, MD
Mission Hospital
Mission Viejo, CA

Edward J. Czarnecki, MD
Medical X-Ray Center
Sioux Falls, SD

Donald A. Eckard, MD
University of Kansas Medical Center
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James V. Manzione, MD
University Hospital
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Steven J. Willing, MD
NeuroVention
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Henry H. Woo, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH

Wendy J. Zenzen, MD
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

SNIS LUMINARY LECTURE 2009

Charles (Chuck) Kerber, MD

Instituted in 2007 at the 4th Annual Meeting, the Luminary Lecture provides SNIS Annual Meeting attendees the opportunity to hear from a veteran who has significantly impacted the neurointerventional field. As the honor is bestowed by the president, this year, Rob Tarr chose Chuck Kerber alongside words of highest praise: "He is truly one of the founding fathers of the field of neurointerventional surgery, consistently demonstrating throughout his long career the capacity for superb innovation and excellence in mentoring."

Charles (Chuck) Kerber was born and grew up in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, a blue collar town in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Tucked between the then-thriving steel mills of Pittsburgh and the coal mines of West Virginia, McKeesport did not offer Chuck the kind of employment opportunities he was looking for. So upon completion of high school, he enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh where he decided to pursue medicine.

Chuck became the first person in the United States to perform angioplasty of the carotid artery for atherosclerotic disease.

Upon completing his undergraduate studies, medical school training and surgical internship, Chuck enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served as a flight surgeon. It was during this period that Chuck was seriously injured while trying to save a colleague trapped in an ignited aircraft, resulting in a two-year stay in Bethesda Naval Hospital where he eventually recovered and endured



Rob Tarr presents Chuck Kerber with the Luminary Lecture Award.

several scar release procedures then and for many years after. True to Chuck's nature, this traumatic event did not dim his enthusiasm for flight. To this day, he remains an avid pilot having owned and flown a Russian jet fighter for many years. And in his role as physician, Chuck applies the precision-honed mentality of a fighter pilot to the problems he confronts in medicine.

Following his time in Bethesda, where he made the decision to pursue Radiology, Chuck headed to the University of Pittsburgh to complete his residency. Following a short stint in private practice in Northern California, which he refers to as short-lived and

understimulating, Chuck decided to pursue greater challenges and enrolled in a two-year fellowship in Neuroradiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

After completing his fellowship in 1972, Chuck obtained a faculty position at the University of Oregon. It was during this time that Chuck began to consider the possibility of using catheter-based techniques to solve complex cerebrovascular problems. Stung by the operative death of a child during an AVM resection, Chuck began developing tools and techniques that would allow safe and effective thera-

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SNIS to Launch Fellows Course

In keeping with the SNIS mission which emphasizes education, SNIS will be holding its Inaugural Fellows Course, to coincide with the 2010 Annual Meeting at the La Costa Resort & Spa, in Carlsbad, CA. There is already tremendous excitement about this new SNIS venture.

Brian Hoh, MD, and Ansaar Rai, MD will serve as the course directors for this first time initiative. "Our goal is to establish the premiere course for fellows that offers a well-rounded and innovative educational program to prepare them for a fellowship (for the junior fellows) or ready for practice (for the senior fellows)" comments Brian Hoh.

The course will take place on Thursday, July 29th and Friday, July 30th as part of the SNIS Annual Meeting. Thursday's program will include case presentations of complications and great saves as well as participation by the general meeting attendees. The day will conclude with a cocktail reception followed by a dinner for fellows, course faculty and sponsors.

Friday's program will be divided into sessions for junior fellows and senior fellows. Topics for the junior fellows will include technical aspects of aneurysm coiling, AVM embolization, and intracranial stenting. Senior fellows will sit in on sessions dedicated to advanced neurointerventional techniques, practice building and coding, as well as topics related to the job search and

interviewing. On the same day, fellows will have the opportunity to attend a technology fair where they can interact with industry and try out new devices on flow models and simulators.

By providing this opportunity, SNIS makes it possible for fellowship directors

to send their fellows to a single comprehensive course. Additionally, Rai says the initiative has the added benefit of increasing the participation of fellows in the SNIS Annual Meeting as they are invited to attend all or part of the general meeting leading up to the Fellows Course.

Apart from the benefit to fellows, fellowship directors will also gain from the

initiative, as they will have the opportunity to meet separately to discuss issues pertaining to fellowship education, curriculum, guidelines, and credentialing. Hoh and Rai said their goal is to foster a collaboration among this group that will not only enhance the Fellows Course offering, but also further future initiatives designed to reach students considering a career in neurointervention.

As SNIS looks to support those who are looking to make the neurointerventional specialty their own, this is your opportunity to help fellows get the information and resources they need. We look forward to seeing many of your fellows in Carlsbad!

For more information, please contact Marie Williams at 703-691-2272.

By providing this opportunity, SNIS makes it possible for fellowship directors to send their fellows to a single comprehensive course.

Michael Brothers Award Recipient Named at ASNR

SNIS is pleased to announce that the 2009 recipient of the Michael Brothers Memorial Award is

Athos Patsalides, MD from the Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Patsalides's manuscript, *"Intraarterial Chemotherapy (Chemosurgery) in Children With Advanced Intraocular Retinoblastoma: A New Treatment Paradigm"* was named the Best Paper in Interventional Neuroradiology at the 47th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology, held May 16-21, 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Congratulations to Dr. Patsalides!

SNIS's Inaugural Fellows Course will coincide with the 2010 Annual Meeting at the La Costa Resort & Spa, in Carlsbad, CA.



Welcome New SNIS Members!

The following new members were approved in 2008. Please help us extend a warm welcome to them!

Senior Members

P. Henry Carpio Adapon, MD
Makati Medical Center
Makati City, Manila
Philippines

Nana Amiridze, MD, PhD
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Los Angeles, CA

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University of Massachusetts
Memorial Medical Center
Worcester, MA

* Moved from Junior to Senior membership

SNIS Explores Board Certification

Rob Tarr, MD

In 2000, the ACGME approved training pathways for candidates from either Neuroradiology or Neurosurgery backgrounds in Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology (Neurointervention). In 2007, an additional pathway for training Neurology-based candidates was approved. Nine years after the initial approval, there are only four ACGME-certified programs nationwide. Why is this? Like the answer to any complex question the reasons are multifactorial. There are economic reasons. There are call coverage reasons. There is the bureaucratic cumbersomeness of obtaining and maintaining program certification. But possibly the main reason is there is little incentive.

Currently over 90 percent of neurointerventional fellows receive training in non-ACGME fellowship

programs, most of which are excellent. And traditionally, most of these fellows have found good jobs upon completion of their fellowship. However, as Bob Dylan once wrote “The times they are a-changing.” Today, potential employers and hospital credentialing bodies want evidence of competence. Today, non-neuroscience specialists with catheter experience are staking claim in procedure arenas which traditionally have been the domain of neurointervention. And today, writing standards of training documents for procedures we have traditionally performed is becoming increasingly difficult when we have no standardized training.

The SNIS Executive Committee has pondered this dilemma for some time now. It is evident that in order to address these issues, Neurointervention

needs to become its own subspecialty with fellowship program standardization and certification (either ACGME or society based), along with a certifying examination upon completion of fellowship training. Toward that end, a newly formed Board of Neurointervention Committee led by Chairperson Wally Lesley and comprised of John Weigle, Harry Cloft, Brian Hoh, Louis Caragine, Italo Linfante, and Raul Noguera is in place. A Fellowship Standardization and Credentialing Committee, chaired by Jeff Sunshine, has also been formed and will work in parallel with the Board Committee. Peter Rasmussen, Alex Norbash, and Tudor Jovin will assist in this effort.

We will keep you updated on these significant initiatives and their impact upon training and certification.

Are You Getting the Most Out of Your Membership?

If SNIS does not have your email address, the answer to this question may well be a resounding no! Although we make sure to communicate our news to you through multiple venues – including standard mail, the SNIS web site, and even the occasional phone call – without question, emails rank at the top of the list where it concerns members’ preferred communication vehicle.

As we are highly sensitive to the quantity of emails that you receive each day, SNIS carefully aims for no more than 1-2 a month. Why would you want to receive these emails? To get the latest news on items including information on upcoming meetings, breaking news related to society or neurointerventional developments, information on committees or task forces in which you may be interested, valuable membership surveys

that help us gauge your needs and the impact of our work – and much more!

Remember – SNIS prioritizes confidentiality where all of our membership information is concerned; thus, we will never pass on your email address to outside vendors

Be sure to send us your email address now – so that you won’t miss out on valuable news that is pertinent to you! You may provide your email address to us by sending it to info@snisonline.org or calling us at **703-691-2272**.



Sixth Annual Meeting Gets In the News!

As the Annual Meeting has established itself as the premier scientific meeting forum in the neurointerventional field, it is the natural venue through which to promote the hottest topics and latest updates around research and treatment. In 2009, three studies were at the center of SNIS's media promotion efforts, all of which were the subjects of oral abstract presentations:

- *Neurointerventionists Expand Research to Quality of Life in Aneurysm Patients Following Minimally Invasive Coiling Treatment* by Antonio DeSimone, M.D., a neuroradiologist at the "San Giovanni Bosco" Hospital in Naples, Italy
- *Study Results Show that Minimally Invasive Therapy is Successful for Over Two-Thirds of Stroke Patients Treated Outside the Standard Eight Hour Window* by Raul Nogueira,

M.D., Assistant in Neurology and Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital – Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts

- *Ongoing Study Shows that Minimally Invasive Therapy is Associated with High Cure Rate for Childhood Eye Cancer* by Pierre Gobin, Professor of Radiology in Neurosurgery and Neurology at the Weill Cornell Medical Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York, New York

Press releases on each of the above were picked up by print and online news outlets, with a readership/viewership of approximately 13 million. In addition to many of the top daily newspapers across the country, such outlets as Reuters.com, Forbes.com, *Bio-Medicine*, *Medical News Today*, *Diagnostic Imaging and Clinical Neurology*

News incorporated SNIS news into their coverage.

Year 2009 marked the most media coverage to date in the history of the Annual Meeting. And as the number of abstract contributions continues to rise, the corresponding media opportunities will expand as well. Toward that end, SNIS will continue to prioritize promotion around the science that is generated from your institutions in a commitment to educate the public on endovascular treatments available for various neurological conditions, as well as incorporate the messaging that will help define the neurointerventional field in the national healthcare dialogue.

Aside from the Annual Meeting, SNIS is always on the lookout for patient/treatment stories that are worthy of media attention. If you have a story to share, please contact Marie Williams at **703-691-2272**.

SNIS Luminary Lecture 2009

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peutic procedures to be performed in the intracranial circulation. Some of his first innovations included flow-directed silicon catheters with a calibrated leak balloon system for intracranial access and liquid adhesive embolization. Chuck also became an innovator in the treatment room when he became the first person in the United States to perform angioplasty of the carotid artery for atherosclerotic disease. In a leadership capacity, Chuck ran his service in Oregon as a multidisciplinary team, including both residents from Radiology and Neurosurgery. Ignoring potential turf issues, Chuck felt that this approach was the most fertile way to develop new ideas to improve patient care.

In 1975, Chuck moved back to the University of Pittsburgh and continued his innovative work to address neuro-

interventional problems. It was during this time that Chuck established a fellowship program, the lineage of which exists today as the Kerber Society. His parallel interests in patient care and technical development continued to flourish. Technical developments continued to flourish, as evidenced by his authorship over two manuscripts regarding embolization techniques in the seminal issue of the *American Journal of Neuroradiology (AJNR)*.

In 1980 Chuck returned to the West Coast as a faculty member at the University of California, San Diego, a position he holds today. How he could have left the climatologically variety of Pittsburgh for the monotonous weather of San Diego remains a mystery to many. However, be that as it may, since moving to San Diego, Chuck has

continued his remarkably innovative career centered on patient care and scientific inquiry. His groundbreaking work in fluid dynamics as it relates to the cerebral circulation is unsurpassed. His ingenious development of liquid adhesive materials is well known and leaves the rest of us anxiously anticipating the future.

As a person, Chuck is straight-forward and does not suffer fools easily. However, he is also completely open to new ideas whether they are expressed by tenured professors, residents or medical students. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Chuck Kerber for his quest for excellence and the resulting scientific advances for which he was responsible during his multi-decade career. Without a doubt, Dr. Kerber is truly a luminary for the field of neurointervention.

2009-2010 Executive Committee Takes Office in Boca Raton

The 2009-2010 Executive Committee took office at the Annual Business Meeting in Boca Raton, Florida. Listed below are your new Officers. Feel free to contact any of them with questions or suggestions for SNIS.

President

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Rob Tarr, MD, passes the gavel to incoming SNIS President, Colin Derdeyn, MD.

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President's Column

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all of our members, but is also key to educating and informing the public and potential patients on neurovascular conditions and the procedures we offer to treat them. The newly-designed SNIS Website, which is scheduled to launch by the end of February, will offer comprehensive information on stroke, aneurysms, spinal abnormalities and other conditions as well as include a physician locator so that patients

can easily locate a neurointerventional specialist in their area. In addition, the site will provide valuable information to students who are making decisions on their career specialty, as well as multiple resources – related to everything from practice-building to health policy – for neurointerventional specialists. A big thank-you to Marie Williams, Eddie Woods and Becca Hall, as well as Imran Chaudry, for seeing this monumental project through to completion.

It's an exciting time to be involved in SNIS. I am honored to serve as pres-

ident of such a dynamic organization that is making a very real impact on our field and the quality of care that our patients receive. It is my fervent desire that we keep innovating...in support of all of the aforementioned areas of focus and priority. Toward that end, my Inbox (derdeync@mir.wustl.edu) is always open for any ideas or suggestions that will help us better reach our goals. Thank you for your commitment to and investment in SNIS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SNIS Events

Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery 8th SNIS Practicum

May 21-22, 2010
Westin Copley Place Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts
Contact: SNIS, 703-691-2272

Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery 7th Annual Meeting

July 26-30, 2010
La Costa Resort & Spa
Carlsbad, California
Contact: SNIS, 703-691-2272

Other Events

International Stroke Conference
February 24-26, 2010
San Antonio, Texas
Contact: 1-800-AHA-USA1

AAFITN/ANZSNR 2010
April 22-25, 2010
Crown Promenade Complex
Melbourne, Australia
Contact: helensainsbury@health.sa.gov.au

American Society of Neuroradiology
48th Annual Meeting
May 15-20, 2010
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts
Contact: ASNR, 630-574-0220

The Embolus

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