



CNS

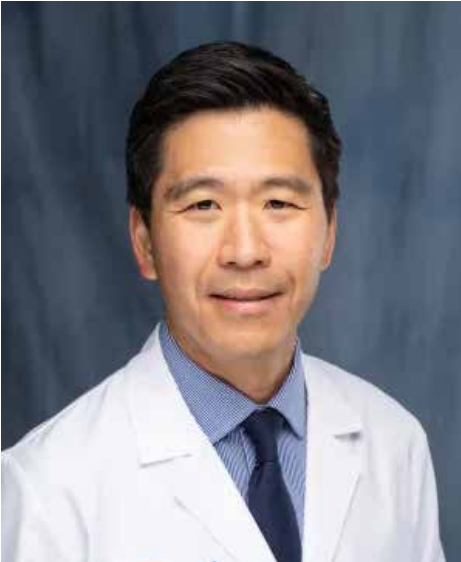
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Daniel J. Hoh, MD, MBA

2025 President

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Serving as President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 2025 has been a privilege. This year marked a deliberate refocusing on connection — honoring our progress while building the future of our specialty together. Across the organization, the CNS remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing neurosurgical science, supporting our members, and strengthening our community.

In 2025, the CNS centered its work on four strategic priorities: Community; Leadership and Career Development; Human Performance and Wellness; and Innovation. Volunteers throughout the organization devoted extraordinary time and effort to advancing new and improved programs and initiatives. These accomplishments were showcased in four special issues of Congress Quarterly, offering a cohesive narrative of the CNS mission and impact.

Leadership development remained a major focus with the launch of the Executive Leadership in Healthcare 3.0 course through the CNS Leadership Institute. The pilot exceeded expectations, and expansion is already underway for 2026. We were also pleased to welcome Stryker as a new sponsor of the Leadership Institute, joining Founding Partner Medtronic. Their support ensures continued growth and reach of this important program.

A defining highlight of the year was the 75th CNS Annual Meeting, held October 11-15, 2025, in Los Angeles. Under the theme CNS Connects, the meeting set new records for abstracts submitted, presentations, industry partnerships, and attendance. These milestones reflect both the vitality of our science and the strength of our in-person community. Enhancements

included an AI-powered meeting concierge and a significantly expanded innovation track focused on technology and digital health.

The CNS continued to grow in meaningful ways beyond the Annual Meeting. Membership surpassed 12,000 for the first time, marking our fifteenth consecutive year of growth. We also launched the CNS Affinity Program, offering members exclusive access to services that support modern neurosurgical practice.

Our commitment to evidence-based care remained strong. In 2025, the CNS published four new clinical guidelines, with 19 more in development. Participation in the Guidelines Fellows Program doubled, expanding volunteer capacity while cultivating future leaders in guideline development.



2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued



The Development Committee strengthened partnerships with the Industry Allies Council, generating essential support for eight educational programs and the Annual Meeting, while fostering meaningful collaboration between members and industry. I am sincerely grateful to our corporate partners for their exceptional support this year.

CNS publications experienced a landmark year under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Douglas Kondziolka. Submissions increased across the portfolio, including a 12% rise for Neurosurgery and a 29% increase for Neurosurgery Practice. Most

notably, Neurosurgery Practice achieved PubMed indexing and received its first impact factor.

The CNS Foundation continued its mission of service, awarding more than \$400,000 in grants and programs. These investments advanced innovation, accessibility, and scientific development across the Foundation's four pillars.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, leaders, staff, partners, and members. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the CNS. Together, we are advancing our

specialty and strengthening the community that defines it.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing the CNS continue to innovate, lead and connect in the years ahead.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication to our specialty and to the CNS.

With gratitude,

Daniel J. Hoh, MD, MBA, FCNS

2025 President,
Congress of Neurological Surgeons



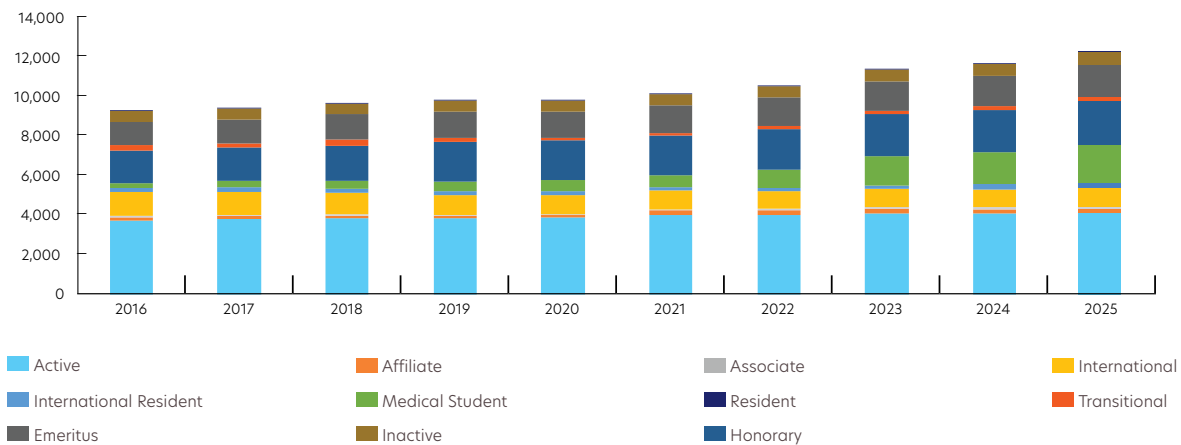
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In 2025 the **CNS** continued its recruitment and retention efforts, resulting in another record milestone, surpassing 12,000+ members and representing consecutive 15 years of growth!



10 YEAR MEMBERSHIP TREND

2016 - 2025



CNS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

continued

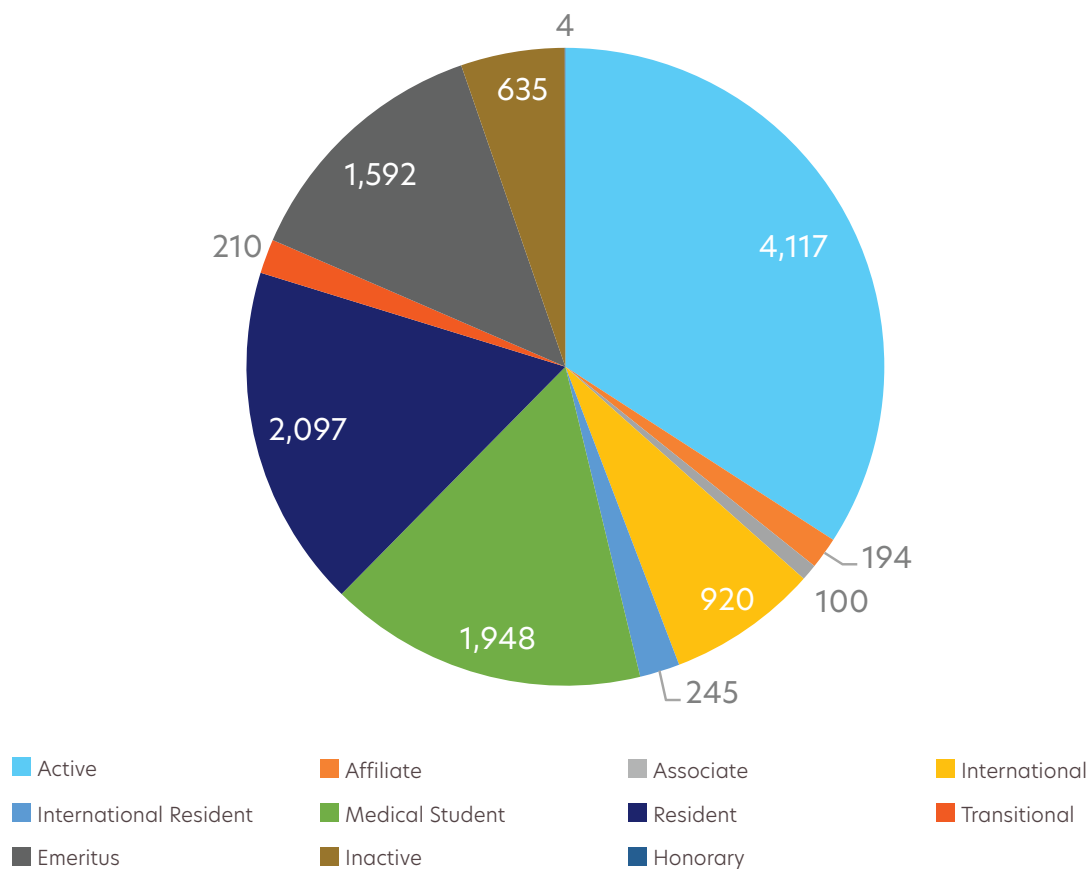
CNS Membership Spotlight

"I joined the CNS to connect with a global community of neurosurgeons, contribute to research, and explore mentorship opportunities. The platform has helped me grow academically while preparing for a career in neurosurgery."

Ibrahim Alhalal, MBBS, University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson



CNS 2025 MEMBERSHIP





MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

continued

Education

Turn learning into leading. Discover why we're the go-to resource for research, insights, and intelligence.

[Learn](#)

Innovation

Ground break, change make. Explore why we're essential to the advancement of neurosurgery.

[Advance](#)

Why CNS?



[Member Benefits >](#)

Advocacy

Listen. The voice for what's vital is speaking—to legislators, the field, and the media.

[Hear Us](#)

Representation

Your perspective matters. Learn about our community's diverse backgrounds, outlooks, and specialties.

[Convene](#)

CNS Membership Spotlight

"The CNS has long been at the forefront of driving progress in neurosurgical care, and I was eager to be a part of this prestigious organization and contribute to its mission. Being a part of the CNS has allowed me to connect with leading neurosurgeons, clinician-scientists, and industry experts, fostering invaluable interdisciplinary partnerships. The organization's educational resources, conferences, and mentorship opportunities have been instrumental in expanding my knowledge, refining my research skills, and staying abreast of the latest trends and best practices in neurosurgery. Most importantly, the CNS's unwavering dedication to improving patient outcomes and advancing the field of neurosurgery aligns perfectly with my own personal and professional goals. By joining CNS, I have found a community of like-minded individuals who share my passion for pushing the boundaries of neuroscience and neurosurgery, and I am honored to contribute to this collective effort. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and I look forward to continuing to engage with this esteemed organization as I strive to make meaningful contributions to the field of neurosurgery."



Kristine Ravina, MD, Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

continued

NEW in 2025: CNS Affinity Program Member Benefits

Now CNS Members enjoy exclusive savings on a variety of services relevant to neurosurgical practice as part of the Affinity program. The program was introduced in October with five programs, but additional offers will be added in 2026 and beyond.



To learn more about member offers from these companies, visit:
<https://www.cns.org/membership/exclusive-member-benefits>

CNS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- **Evidence Based Guidelines** - CNS Guidelines improve the standard of neurosurgical care, protect patients' access to essential procedures and help with third party payer coverage.
- **Critical Advocacy Efforts** - Through advocacy, policy development and public relations, the Washington Committee plays a vital role in advancing neurosurgery's key health care initiatives on Capitol Hill and ensures a robust representation in the AMA House of Delegates.
- **A Culture of Leadership and Inclusion** - The CNS invests extensive time and resources in programs that bring together neurosurgeons across geographic boundaries, practice settings and career stages to create networks for education and career advancement, cultivating a diverse community of neurosurgeon leaders.
- **World-Class Publications** - The CNS produces the premier journals in the field, ensuring that our members stay abreast of new surgical techniques, technological developments, and evidence-based approaches in all neurosurgical subspecialties.
- **Unparalleled Educational Resources** - The CNS is the leader in neurosurgical education, delivering relevant and cutting-edge educational content and experiences to match today's practice challenges.
- **Innovation Leader** - The CNS maintains a steadfast focus on providing platforms for neurosurgical leaders, fostering neurosurgical start-ups, and building relationships with innovative industry partners to drive discovery and advance patient care.



Jason Ellis, MD, FCNS
Chair, Membership Committee



RESIDENT COMMITTEE

This year, the CNS Resident Committee (RC) experienced remarkable growth during the inaugural year of the Resident Leadership Committee. Under the direction of Chair **Emal Lesha**, Vice Chair **Jessica Campos**, and Secretary **Helen Shi**, this inspiring leadership team guided a group of 108 trainees and **22 medical students**. The RC has gained significant momentum, achieving over **75% attendance** at monthly meetings. This year also marked the second cycle of the formal application process, which yielded a **30% increase in membership**—a testament to the Committee's expanding visibility and impact.



"This past year as Resident Committee Chair has been incredibly meaningful and deeply rewarding. Our group of more than 100 residents and medical students demonstrated exceptional talent, commitment, and momentum—an inspiring reflection of the future of neurosurgery. I look forward to continuing this work and serving as Chair for a second year."

Julie Chan, MD, PhD, FCNS
Chair, CNS Resident Committee





RESIDENT COMMITTEE

continued

EACH RC SUBCOMMITTEE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF THE CNS THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE INITIATIVES:

- **Education Subcommittee**, led by **Matheus Pereira** and **Bryce Owen**, demonstrated outstanding dedication through their contributions to **SANS, Nexus, and CNS+**. They also developed a comprehensive survey on trainee educational resources, providing critical data to guide improvements in resident education.
- **Taskforce Subcommittee**, chaired by **Anisse Chaker** with **George Koutsoura**, addressed several high-priority initiatives. Their team developed meaningful updates to the **Radiology** and **Pathology** sections of the Neurosurgery Survival Guide, created a **Resident Wellness Pamphlet** for the Annual Meeting, and produced a survey assessing CNS+ application usage among resident trainees.
- **Social Media Subcommittee**, led by **Nathan Shlobin** and **Syed Khalid**, was highly active in promoting RC accomplishments and CNS opportunities. Their efforts resulted in a **400% increase** in social media engagement and followers.
- **Global Outreach Subcommittee**, led by **Roxana Beladi** and **John Emmanuel Torio**, strengthened connections with trainees worldwide. Their team is collaborating with the **EANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee** to co-host an international educational seminar.
- **Medical Student Subcommittee**, in its inaugural year, was spearheaded by **Eric Goethe** and **Kyle Tuohy**. They launched a new mentorship program designed to support medical students pursuing long-term engagement within the Executive Committee. Medical student members demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm, including active participation at the Annual Meeting as Sergeants-at-Arms.
- **Membership Subcommittee**, led by **Alon Kashanian** and **Rush Joshi**, played a critical role in expanding and promoting the RC. They developed a robust membership database to support recruitment, retention, and engagement across training programs. The RC's 2025 incoming class will include **143 trainees and 25 medical students**, representing **82 U.S. training programs** and **3 international programs**.

CNS Member Spotlight

"Being a member of the Resident Committee has expanded my professional network and provided me with mentors at every level of the organization. Initially starting out as a committee member, and now assuming the role of Co-Chair of the Membership subcommittee has also empowered me to take on increasing responsibility in a leadership capacity, working in concert with a team to enact meaningful changes to benefit neurosurgery residents. Membership with the Resident Committee also provides immense individual benefits by granting access to the vast educational resources, courses and lectureships/seminars made available through the CNS website. It has been a privilege to become more involved with CNS as part of the Resident Committee and this experience has helped pave the way for a lifelong career of involvement in organized neurosurgery."

Rushikesh Joshi, MD, University of Michigan





RESIDENT COMMITTEE

continued

CNS VIRTUAL RESIDENCY FAIR

This year marked the fifth consecutive Virtual Residency Fair hosted by the CNS Resident Committee. The redesigned format consisted of a series of Tuesday sessions throughout the month of August, providing greater scheduling flexibility and engagement. A total of **90 neurosurgery residency programs** participated, presenting during pre-designated 15-minute time slots. The event continues to demonstrate strong momentum, with a **28% increase in program participation compared to 2023** and **over a 50% increase in medical student registrants compared to 2024**. Feedback from medical students and program leadership has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the fair's value as an accessible, high-impact recruitment and educational forum.

All **Section Liaisons** performed exceptionally throughout the year. They actively participated in their respective Section Executive Committee meetings, furthering collaborative initiatives and supporting each section's mission.

Highlights include:

- **CSNS Liaison Team:** Established reciprocal leadership roles with the CSNS Fellow to promote long-term collaboration and shared advocacy initiatives.
- **Cerebrovascular Liaisons:** Promoted educational opportunities and deployed a survey identifying students interested in cerebrovascular neurosurgery.
- **Pain Section Liaisons:** Launched a new trainee/student committee, with an inaugural cohort of 3 residents and 6 medical students.
- **Spine Liaisons:** Contributed to the widely viewed **"What Would You Do Wednesday"** social media series and actively promoted resident membership.
- **Tumor Liaisons:** Developed new **Nexus Tumor** case content to enhance trainee education.
- **WINS Liaisons:** Actively engaged in the **WINS Mentorship Program**, fostering cross-organizational connections between WINS and the RC.

CNS Member Spotlight

- 1 *I joined the CNS resident committee because I wanted to get involved with organized neurosurgery. I think CNS and the annual meeting provide a great platform for meeting new people, exchanging ideas, and advancing the field. It's an organization that serves a vital role but requires a lot of people working very hard to keep running. I wanted to help with that.*
- 2 *Being involved with the resident committee has been important to me because it has provided me with a way to connect with and mentor medical students and younger residents. I wouldn't be where I am without mentorship, and I want to make sure I pay that forward.*

Eric Goethe, MD, Baylor College of Medicine



2025 RESIDENT COMMITTEE ROSTER

Committee Member	Program
Hael Abdulrazeq	Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital
Hussam Abou-Al-Shaar	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Alexander Aguirre	University at Buffalo
Yasaman Alam	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Abdulrahman Almansouri	McGill University/Montreal Neurological Hospital
Joseph Antonios	Yale University
Travis Atchley	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Roxana Beladi	Ascension Providence Hospital
Lokeshwar Bhenderu	The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Jeffrey Breton	MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Jessica Campos	University of California, Irvine
Anisse Chaker	Henry Ford Hospital
Bronson Ciavarra	Baylor Scott & White
Dana Defta	University Hospitals/Case Western Reserve University
Ansh Desai	University of Illinois, Peoria
Muluberhan Desta	St. Pajl MMC neurological surgery
Elizabeth Duquette	University of Michigan
Marwa Emhemed	Libyan Residency program at Tripoli Central Hospital
Alejandro Enriquez-Marulanda	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Dara Farhadi	University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix
Wilson Fisher	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Deveney Franklin	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Natasha Frontera	University of Puerto Rico- General Surgery Preliminary Year
Adam Glaser	Brigham and Women's / Boston Children's
Eric Goethe	Baylor College of Medicine
Danielle Golub	Northwell / Hofstra
Alwyn Gomez	University of Manitoba
Andrew Hale	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Ahmed Helal	University of Colorado
Alexander Himstead	University of California, Irvine
Katherine Holste	University of Michigan
Omar Hussain	Medical College of Wisconsin
Mitch Johansen	University of South Florida
Rushikesh Joshi	University of Michigan
Alon Kashanian	Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell
Kathryn Kearns	University of Virginia Health System
Syed Khalid	University of Illinois, Chicago
Asham Khan	University at Buffalo
Gurkirat Kohli	University of Rochester

Committee Member	Program
George Koutsouras	Upstate University Hospital
Molly Lafuente	University of Texas San Antonio
Jordan Lam	University of Michigan
Emal Lasha	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Diego Luy	Loyola University Medical Center
Sarosh Madhani	Mayo Clinic - Rochester
Elad Mashiach	Westchester Medical Center
Miguel Millares Chavez	Yale University
Erin Miller	Carolinas Medical Center
Alina Mohanty	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Arbaz Momin	Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Rachel Moor	University of Florida
William Mualem	Virginia Commonwealth University
Anant Naik	University of Minnesota
Patrick Ng	University of Southern California
Oludotun Ogunsola	University of Michigan
Cordelia Orillac	NYU Langone Health
Bryce Owen	University of Cincinnati
Edwin Owolo	Massachusetts General Hospital
Zach Pennington	Mayo Clinic - Rochester
Matheus Pereira	Medical University of South Carolina
Carlos Perez-Vega	Mayo Clinic - Jacksonville
Elliot Pressman	University of South Florida
Miguel David Quintero Consuegra	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Kristine Ravina	Virginia Tech Carilion Clinic
Mani Ratnesh Sandhu	University of Iowa
Brian Saway	Medical University of South Carolina
Alexander Schupper	Mount Sinai
Mitchell Self	Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Syed Mansoor Shah	CPSP training program
Helen Shi	University of Oklahoma
Nathan Shlobin	New York Presbyterian Hospital - Columbia University
Rohin Singh	University of Rochester
Zachary Sorrentino	University of Florida
Megan Still	University of Florida
Caren Stuebe	Inova Fairfax
John Emmanuel Torio	Section of Neurosurgery, UERM Hospital
Jeffrey Traylor	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Kyle Tuohy	Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Lohit Velagapudi	Vanderbilt University
Piimaria Virtanen	Indiana University School of Medicine
Cody Wolfe	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Yuanfan Yang	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Yagiz Yolcu	University of Minnesota
Laura Zima	University of Texas Houston



J. Nicole Bentley, MD, FCNS
Senior Advisor, Resident Committee



Julie Chan, MD, PhD, FCNS
Chair, Resident Committee



ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A key focus of the **Engagement Committee** is to ensure that the CNS, as an organization, reflects the diversity within our field and ensures all members have a voice. The CNS Engagement Committee worked with several other standing committees throughout the year to ensure a diverse speaker list for courses, webinars, and CNS-sponsored content. The members of the committee reviewed all courses and provided feedback/recommendations to the planning groups on the diversity of invited faculty—to include representation from different genders, ethnicities, training programs and practices, geographic locations, career stages, and perspectives.

On Monday, October 13th, the LGBTQIA+ and WINS Breakfast Seminar included a discussion about the challenges of being in the LGBTQIA+ community and a practicing neurosurgeon and how to overcome these challenges and improve delivery of care to patients for the training of the next generation will be addressed. This seminar had an amazing turnout and engagement, with approximately 47 claims for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. On Tuesday, October 14th, the ASBN Breakfast Seminar, focused on advancing diversity and equity in neurosurgery through the advancement of underrepresented minorities in neurosurgery. The urgent need for concerted efforts to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups, particularly Black Americans and embracing diversity to foster innovation, creativity, and excellence in addressing the complex challenges of neurosurgical practice was highlighted. We are grateful to those CNS members who participated and shared their experiences and perspectives.

On Tuesday, October 14, Theresa Williamson spearheaded the education and discussion with two speakers and ten abstract presenters at the Sunrise Science Session—Healthcare Disparities. Health disparities are preventable differences in disease burden, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health, too often experienced by vulnerable populations. Surgical health disparities are well documented in the literature and involve neurosurgical patients from prevention to disease burden to treatment and outcome. The goal of this session was to understand better and spread knowledge related to disparity in neurosurgical disease and to brainstorm solutions to health disparities affecting neurosurgical patients.

"I started volunteering with the Pathways to Neurosurgery Program when it started in 2021, and it is my favorite CNS Annual Meeting activity. Getting to talk to kids about what we do, showing them the technology and tools we use, and watching some of them have a moment where they can see themselves doing what we do is everything."

Christopher Newman, MD, FCNS

2025 Pathway to Neurosurgery Faculty Member



ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

continued



2025 continued to be a productive year for the CNS Engagement Committee as they built upon their focus on lowering barriers to early neurosurgical exposure via the Pathway to Neurosurgery program. On October 13, 2025, 51 students from the Los Angeles area, in partnership with the LA Career Academy and Dominguez High School, enjoyed a day-long symposium designed exclusively for them, enjoying lectures from a diverse group of leading neurosurgeons, including the co-chairs, Drs. Maryam Rahman, and Kunal Vakharia welcomed the students upon their arrival and presented “A Day in the Life of a Neurosurgeon.” The students spent the day surrounded by neurosurgeons, and got an inside look into what a medical career—possibly even a career in neurosurgery—would look like. The students also rotated through eight hands-on stations, generously sponsored by Medtronic, Johnson and Johnson, and the Mobile Lab sponsored by Stryker. During their time at each station, the students learned about the different types of equipment and tools neurosurgeons use in their daily practice, like spine and cranial navigation systems, surgical drills, and pedicle screws. Volunteer neurosurgeons and residents partnered with each student through the stations, giving them feedback on holding surgical instruments and answering their questions.

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cranial navigation systems, surgical drills, and pedicle screws. Volunteer neurosurgeons and residents partnered with each student through the stations, giving them feedback on holding surgical instruments and answering their questions.

Between station rotations, the students listened to speakers from various backgrounds talk about their own pathways to becoming neurosurgeons. Dr. C. Rory Goodwin, a neurosurgeon and professor at Duke University, spoke about his journey to becoming a neurosurgeon and the importance of several mentors in his life. Dr. Kimberly Kicielski, neurosurgeon and associate professor at Medical University of South Carolina took the students through a “typical” day, walked them through a case of a young patient that she was able to successfully treat. Dr. William Christopher Newman spoke to the children about his journey from high school to his current role as a neurosurgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Lastly, neurosurgeon and assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, candidly spoke to the students about his professional journey and the importance of working hard and building great relationships.

During lunch, volunteer neurosurgeons led roundtable discussions with the students and casually answered their questions. Laughter and conversation bubbled throughout the day. Not only were the students enjoying themselves, but volunteer neurosurgeons also said it was one of the highlights of the CNS Annual Meeting.

 CNS
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
continued

Pathway to Neurosurgery and other fine programs supported by donors!

The CNS Foundation wishes to express gratitude to the following people and organizations for making the 2024 Pathway to Neurosurgery event possible:

- **Tiffany Hodges, Maryam Rahman, and Kunal Vakharia**, for their outstanding leadership.
- **Medtronic** for their generous financial support and thoughtful leadership.
- **Stryker**, for their generous financial support, and for providing use of their mobile lab to the students the day of the symposium.
- **Johnson and Johnson**, for their donated supplies for stations.
- To the following **practitioners** for giving their time to speak at the event: Rushna Ali, Tiffany Hodges, Maryam, Kunal Vakharia, Kim Kicielski, W. Christopher Newman, C.Rory Goodwin.
- Sincere appreciation to the many **volunteer neurosurgeons, residents, and medical students** who stopped by and spent time with our guest students.

CNS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

In addition to the above, the committee has ongoing efforts to increase engagement in CNS programming.

- **Evaluate lists of invited speakers/course faculty/ moderators for CNS courses and meetings and recommend changes to increase diversity.**
- **Ongoing efforts to collaborate with CNS Foundation:**
 - Pathways to Neurosurgery
 - Neurosurgery Think Tank
 - Neurosurgery Experience Awards
- DEI Abstracts
- DEI Innovation Pilot Project
- DEI Scholar Award
- DEI Impact Award
- **Ongoing efforts to collaborate with WINS, ASBN, and other sections in increasing and highlighting diversity within our specialty**



Tiffany Hodges, MD, FCNS
Advisor



Rushna Ali, MD, FCNS
Chair



Maryam Rahman, MD, FCNS
Member of the Engagement Committee



Dr. Gabriel Zada, Dr. Doug Kondziolka, and Dr. Russ Lonser at the 2025 CNS Annual Meeting “Getting Published” Seminar.

On behalf of **Neurosurgery Publications**, its editorial board and staff, I would like to thank the CNS membership for their engagement with and support of the journals throughout the course of this year. We are pleased to share the following updates on the state of Neurosurgery Publications.

As we wrap up 2025, all journals across the portfolio continue to receive record submissions and we strive for an efficient turnaround time for reviews. **Neurosurgery Practice** alone saw a 29% submission increase year-over-year. This portfolio-wide growth is a testament to each of the journal's reach and prominence with a focus on topic relevance. We hope too, that our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible experience to our authors and reviewers have made Neurosurgery Publications a welcomed destination for many. Rest assured that when a review takes longer, it is because the work has gone through additional layers of assessment. The impact factor for **Neurosurgery** remains the highest in the field.

As part of the annual Journal Citation Report release from Clarivate, **Neurosurgery Practice** received its inaugural Impact Factor! The journal was also granted entry into PubMed Central as an indexed title.¹ We understand the importance both attributes play in a prospective authors' decision-making process on whether or not to submit and are thrilled that **Neurosurgery Practice** has achieved both critical milestones. These achievements mark the culmination of several years' work and are a reflection of the editorial board's rigor and the journal's high quality.

The journals continue to be available in multiple media formats. **Neurosurgery** can be read in print, online with a standard web

NEUROSURGERY PUBLICATIONS

continued

design, or in a mobile application. **Operative Neurosurgery** is digital only, due to its strong digital content (web and mobile), and **Neurosurgery Practice** is web and mobile. The CNS + mobile app is a great place to access it all.

It is interesting to see that the breadth of content has gone beyond the traditional subspecialties of neurosurgical science and care, to include socioeconomic issues, global neurosurgery topics, education and residency elements, artificial intelligence and data science. **Neurosurgery** is strong in all of these domains.

Dr. Danielle Golub of Hofstra University/Northwell Health and Dr. Christopher Carr of the Medical College of Georgia joined Neurosurgery Publications as the 2025-2026 Resident Fellow and Deputy Resident Fellow respectively. As part of their duties Dr. Golub and Dr. Carr are overseeing the peer review process for select submissions and will be collaborating with staff on a project of their choosing. Those residents interested in learning about the annual Publications Fellowship can read more at <https://www.cns.org/publications/neurosurgery-publications-resident-fellowship>. The application cycle for the 2026-2027 Fellowship closed February 3, 2026, but applications for the 2027-2028 cycle will open again next January.



December 31, 2025 marked the conclusion of the current editorial board's term. Their efforts allowed us to ensure that we publish only the highest quality science in the specialty and no doubt contributed to the growth and success of Neurosurgery Publications over their term. I would like to thank each and every member of the outgoing board for their dedication and service to Neurosurgery Publications over the past several years. We welcome Drs. Sepideh Amin-Hanjani, Nino Chiocca, Zohar Ghogawala, and Elad Levy as new Associate Editors, and extend a warm welcome to all the new members of the incoming board.

References

1. Kondziolka D. Neurosurgery Practice: A Journal Comes of Age. *Neurosurgery*. 2025; 97(4): 765.



Douglas Kondziolka, MD, MSc, FCNS
Editor-in-Chief, Neurosurgery Publications



2025 CNS ANNUAL MEETING



CNS CONNECTS

October 11-15, 2025 • Los Angeles Convention Center

The **2025 CNS Annual Meeting** gathered more than 3,700 neurosurgeons and neurosurgical team members across practice settings and career stages to share impactful research, discuss advances in neurosurgical technology and approaches, and connect with one another.

Our 2025 meeting theme, “**CNS Connects**,” reminded attendees what has made the field of neurosurgery a leader in innovation and medicine and celebrated the many ways CNS has supported neurosurgical innovation throughout our history.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Fessler Legacy – Innovations in Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

highlighted the contributions of Dr Richard Fessler to the field of minimally invasive spine surgery and covered the gamut of the MIS ecosystem including techniques, technologies, career strategies and operative videos.



Meeting of the Pacific Rim – Building on the success of our Meeting of the Americas

the CNS was pleased to introduce a new Meeting of the Pacific Rim Symposium in LA, bringing together leading experts from across the Asia-Pacific region and the United States to highlight advancements in neurosurgical care, technology, and education.



Operative Spine Video Theater: Unlocking the Essential Elements of Surgery

A panel of established and well-published experts led a half-day session packed with high definition surgical video on degenerative spine, tumor, complex deformity, minimally invasive, robotics. Discussion on these videos focused on clinical pearls and identification of key challenges.



The **CNS 5K** returned, with more than 250 registrants participating in group runs on Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon, or running asynchronously on their own. This year, runners also enjoyed a warmup and stretch session with a performance coach from Evolve.

Crossfire Debates

in Neurotrauma drew crowds as experts debated controversies in management of brain and spine trauma.





ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

A new Lifestyle Lounge within the CNS Xperience

Lounge offered attendees a space to relax and recharge, while checking a few items off their personal to-do lists. The lounge featured specialized vendors, including FIGS, J.Hilburn, @ladyspinedoc, Meadows on Rock Creek, and M.M.LaFleur. Attendees also connected with medical revenue recovery experts from CNS Affinity Partner Callagy Recovery, and a specialized energy coach from Evolve to get personalized guidance, actionable recommendations, and strategic insights tailored to elevate their practice and their performance.



Annual Meeting by the Numbers

3,708 medical registrants - more than 5,300 total registrants—gathered in Los Angeles, California to collaborate and connect with colleagues from across the globe and share meaningful breakthroughs in neurosurgery.

5,041 total abstract submissions

- **499** Oral abstract presentations
- **420** Mini-oral presentations
- **1,299** Poster presentations
- **2,016** Digital posters

29 weekend symposia, including Data Science and AI for Neurosurgeons.

2 Breakfast Seminars

2 Dinner Seminars - "Disruptive Technology in Spine Surgery," and "Complex Skull Base Approaches."

6 Guidelines Sessions

27 Sunrise Science Sessions

20 Lunch Seminars



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

HONORED GUEST



Daniel K. Resnick

Professor, Vice Chairman, and Residency Program Director of Neurological Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison



On Monday, October, 13, Daniel K. Resnick, MD, our 2025 Honored Guest, delivered the Honored Guest Lecture, titled "Connections in the Community of Neurosurgery." A Past-President of the CNS and respected leader in organized neurosurgery, Dr. Resnick is an internationally known spinal surgeon and has

particular expertise in minimally-incisional surgery, spinal tumors and degenerative disorders of the spine. His current research focuses on improving the quality of spinal surgery and he is

particularly interested in tracking and improving meaningful patient outcomes.

Dr. Resnick has served in multiple leadership roles in organized neurosurgery and spine surgery. He is Past President of the Joint Spine Section, Past President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and Past President of the North American Spine Society. He is a past Director and Secretary of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons and currently serves on the Neurosurgery Residency Review Committee.

Dr. Resnick also hosted the Honored Guest Luncheon, "Forks in the Road: Early Career Decisions and Lessons from a Spine Surgeon's Journey" on Tuesday, October 14.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

FEATURED LECTURES

Spike Lee

Michael L.J. Apuzzo Lecturer on Creativity and Innovation

On **Sunday, October 12**, Drs. Edjah Nduom and C. Rory Goodwin hosted the Apuzzo Creativity Lecturer, “A Moderated Conversation with Spike Lee” where Academy Award-winning Director, Spike Lee discussed his creative process and how he has innovated in his field.



Andre Agassi

Special Lecture

The **Sunday** session also featured a special discussion “Off the Court, with Andre Agassi”, widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis professionals of all time. This discussion was moderated by Drs. Myron L. Rolle and Mark Redding.



Dan Buettner

Walter E. Dandy Orator

On **Monday, October 13**, National Geographic Explorer, Emmy Award-winning producer, and New York Times bestselling author Dan Buettner delivered the Walter E. Dandy Oration, discussing his groundbreaking research on the five regions of the world he identified—known as Blue Zones—where people live exceptionally long and healthy lives.



Lisa Ling

Dr. Dorothy Nash Lecturer

On **Tuesday, October 14** Emmy Award-winning journalist and bestselling author Lisa Ling delivered the Dorothy Nash Lecture, sharing stories of resilience, breakthrough and the human experience uncovered in her journalism career.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Service Award – *Deanne L. Starr*



Educator of the Year Award – *Marjorie Wang*



Founder's Laurel Award – *Richard Ellenbogen*



Innovator of the Year Award – Innovation: Vivistim Paired VNS System – *Navzer Engineer*



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued



Each year, the CNS and **Neurosurgery Publications** honor the original papers that challenged dogma, created a paradigm shift, and/or encouraged surgeons to rethink approaches to patient care, big data, and trial results with the Neurosurgery Publications Paper of the Year Awards.

PAPER OF THE YEAR

The Top Paper of the Year was awarded to “Three-Dimensional Morphological Change of Intracranial Aneurysms Before and Around Rupture”

Kamphuis, Maarten J. MD; Timmins, Kimberley M. PhD; Kuijf, Hugo J. PhD; de Graaf, Eva K. L. MD; Rinkel, Gabriel J. E. MD, PhD, FRCPE; Vergouwen, Mervyn D. I. MD, PhD; van der Schaaf, Irene C. MD, PhD

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

PAPERS OF THE YEAR

Cerebrovascular Paper of the Year **Embolic Materials' Comparison in Meningeal Artery Embolization for Chronic Subdural Hematomas: Multicenter Propensity Score-Matched Analysis of 1070 Cases**

Salem, Mohamed M. MD, MPH; Helal, Ahmed MD; Gajjar, Avi A. BA; Sioutas, Georgios S. MD; Khalife, Jane MD; Kuybu, Okkes MD; Carroll, Kate MD; Nguyen Hoang, Alex MD; Baig, Ammad A. MD; Salih, Mira MD; Baker, Cordell MD; Cortez, Gustavo MD; Abecassis, Zack MD; Ruiz Rodriguez, Juan F. MD; Davies, Jason M. MD PhD; Cawley, C. Michael MD; Riina, Howard A. MD; Spiotta, Alejandro M. MD; Khalessi, Alexander A. MD, MBA; Howard, Brian M. MD; Hanel, Ricardo MD, PhD; Tanweer, Omar MD; Tonetti, Daniel A. MD; Siddiqui, Adnan H. MD, PhD; Lang, Michael J. MD Levy, Elad I. MD, MBA; Ogilvy, Christopher S. MD; Srinivasan, Visish M. MD; Kan, Peter MD, MPH; Gross, Bradley A. MD Jankowitz, Brian T. MD; Levitt, Michael R. MD; Thomas, Ajith J. MD; Grandhi, Ramesh MD; Burkhardt, Jan-Karl MD

Neurotrauma Paper of the Year **Association Between Whole Blood Transfusion and Mortality Among Patients With Hemorrhagic Shock and Traumatic Brain Injury**

Aoki, Makoto MD, PhD; Katsura, Miorihiro MD, MPH; Matsushima, Kazuhide MD

Pediatrics Paper of the Year **Changes on Cognition and Brain Network Temporal Variability After Pediatric Neurosurgery**

Guan, Xueyi PhD; Hu, Bohan MD; Zheng, Wenjian PhD; Chen, Ning MD; Li, Xiang PhD; Hu, Cuiling MD; Han, Xu MD; Yan, Zihan PhD; Lu, Zheng MD; Ou, Yunwei MD; Gong, Jian PhD

Spine Paper of the Year **What Are We Transfusing? Evaluating the Quality and Clinical Utility of Intraoperatively Salvaged Red Blood Cells in Spinal Deformity Surgery: A Nonrandomized Controlled Trial**

Kurland, David B. MD, PhD; Alber, Daniel BS; Smith, Andrew BS; Ahmed, Shah MD; Orringer, Daniel MD; Frempong-Boadu, Anthony MD; Lau, Darryl MD

Peripheral Nerve Paper of the Year **Algorithm Versus Expert: Machine Learning Versus Surgeon-Predicted Symptom Improvement After Carpal Tunnel Release**

Loos, Nina Louisa MSc; Hoogendam, Lisa MSc; Souer, John Sebastiaan MD, PhD; van Uchelen, Jeroen Hein MD, PhD; Slijper, Harm Pieter PhD; Wouters, Robbert Maarten PhD; Selles, Ruud Willem PhD; The Hand-Wrist Study Group

Socioeconomics, Health Policy and Law Paper of the Year

The Impact of Intracranial Pressure Telesensors: An Observational Propensity-Matched Control Analysis of Service Demand and Costs

Pandit, Anand S. PhD, MRCS; Kamal, Muhammad A. MD; Reischer, Gerda MD; Aldabbagh, Yousif MBBS; Alradhawi, Mohammad MBBS; Lee, Faith M. Y. BSc; Sekhon, Priya P. MBBS; Moncur, Eleanor M. MBChB; Banks, Ptolemy D. W. MSc; Thompson, Simon MSc; Thorne, Lewis FRCS(SN); Watkins, Laurence D. MD, FRCS; Toma, Ahmed K. MD(Res), FRCS(SN)

Stereotactic and Functional Paper of the Year

A Speech Neuroprosthesis in the Frontal Lobe and Hippocampus: Decoding High-Frequency Activity into Phonemes

Tankus, Ariel PhD; Stern, Einat BSc; Klein, Guy BSc; Kaptzon, Nufar BSc; Nash, Lilac BSc; Marziano, Tal BSc; Shamia, Omer BSc; Gurevitch, Guy MA; Bergman, Lottem MD; Goldstein, Lilach MD; Fahoum, Firas MD; Strauss, Ido MD, PhD

Tumor Paper of the Year

Genomic Alterations in Molecularly Defined Oligodendrogliomas

Weber-Levine, Carly MS; Rakovec, Maureen MD; Jiang, Kelly MS; Kalluri, Anita BS; Raj, Divyaansh BS; Parker, Megan BS; Materi, Joshua MD; Sepehri, Sadra BS; Ferrés, Abel MD; Schreck, Karisa C. MD; Aldecoa, Iban MD, PhD; Lucas, Calixto-Hope G. MD; Redmond, Kristin J. MD; Holdhoff, Matthias MD, PhD; Sair, Haris I. MD; Weingart, Jon D. MD; Brem, Henry MD; González Sánchez, Josep MD, PhD; Ye, Xiaobu MD, MS; Bettgowda, Chetan MD, PhD; Rincon-Torroella, Jordina MD



Pain Paper of the Year **Preoperative Opioid Use and Postoperative Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Microvascular Decompression for Trigeminal Neuralgia**

Kalluri, Anita L. BA; Ejimogu, Emeka BS; Kilgore, Collin BS; Nair, Sumil K. BA; Ran, Kathleen R. AB; Abdulrahim, Mostafa MD; Xie, Michael E. AM; Halbert-Elliott, Kyra BS; Yedavalli, Vivek MD, MS; Lim, Michael MD; Jackson, Christopher M. MD; Huang, Judy MD; Bettgowda, Chetan MD, PhD; Xu, Risheng MD, PhD

Global Neurosurgery Paper of the Year

A Novel Approach for Free, Affordable, and Sustainable Microsurgery Laboratory Training for Low- and Middle-Income Countries: University of Wisconsin-Madison Microneurosurgery Laboratory Experience

Keles, Abdullah MD; Cancela, Alberto Acitores MD; Moussalem, Charbel K. MD; Kessely, Yannick Canton MD; Malazonia, Zviad MD; Shah, Jayunkumar M. MD; Gurbuz, Mehmet Sabri MD; Gasimov, Turab MD; Adekanmbi, Adefisayo MD; Bari, Mohammad Shahnawaz MD; Dumot, Chloe MD; Oriola, Guillermo Garcia MD; Goldtun, Jared Paul U. MD; Bin Mohd Nor, Mohd Aidil MD; Omar, Ahmed Hussein MD; Ozaydin, Burak MD; Patel, Nirav J. MD; Dempsey, Robert J. MD; Baskaya, Mustafa K. MD



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued



CNS Connects





ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued

SANS CHALLENGE FINALISTS

Competing Teams in the Preliminary Round:

- George Washington University
- Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell
- Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- University of California, Davis
- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- University of Kansas Medical Center
- University of Minnesota
- University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
- University of Washington
- West Virginia University

SANS CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2025 SANS Challenge Winners



1st Place

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER
Adip Bhargav and Rakan Dodin



2nd Place

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Peter Harris and Dallas Soyland



3rd Place

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Crina Peterson and Sanjay Dhawan

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 ABSTRACT AWARD WINNERS

Each year, merit-based abstract awards at the CNS Annual Meeting are granted to acknowledge outstanding submissions.

Best Abstract in Medical Education and Training Award

Dedicated Research Structure During Neurosurgery Residency: Impact On Academic Productivity And Long Term Success

Ankush Chandra

Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation (SBTF) Award

Predicting Brain Metastasis Development In Lung Adenocarcinoma Patients Using DNA Methylomes

Jeffrey Zuccato

American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) Young Investigator Award

Early And Late Gamma Electrocorticography Signatures Enhance Localization Of Language Cortex During Awake Craniotomy Procedures

Sujit Prabhu

BrainLab Neurosurgery Award

Focused Ultrasound-Induced Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption For Enhanced Drug Delivery In Glioblastoma: A Clinical Trial-Based Analysis

Muhammad Karim

Best Data Science Award

General Machine Intelligence for Clinical Neuroimaging

Todd Hollon

Columbia Softball Skull Base Surgery Award

The ANS-7 Score: An Externally Validated Seven-Point System Predicting Poor Facial Nerve Outcome Following Resection Of Vestibular Schwannomas

James Feghali

James Rutka Pediatric Tumors Award

Restricted B-cell Receptor Repertoires In Pediatric High-Grade Glioma

Amelia Stepniak

Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award

Myeloid-Induced Axonogenesis Coordinates Neural And Immune Remodeling In Glioblastoma

John Choi

Lunsford and Leksell Radiosurgery Award

Leveraging Machine Learning To Develop A Novel, Intuitive, And Interpretable Risk Assessment Score For Predicting Local Tumor Progression After Stereotactic Radiosurgery For Spinal Metastases

Suchet Taori

Mizuho Minimally Invasive Brain Tumor Surgery Award

Surgical Management Of Giant Craniopharyngiomas: Expanded Endoscopic Endonasal Or Transcranial Approach?

Youyuan Bao

Raymond Sawaya Neuro-Oncology Trainee Award

MiRNA Profiling On Liquid Biopsy Outperforms Automated MRI Radiomics For Patient Outcome Prediction In Glioblastoma: Integrated Machine Learning Analysis Of Longitudinal, Multimodal Data From 73 Patients

Owen Leary

Rosenblum - Mahaley Clinical Research Award

Phase I/II Study Combining Checkpoint Inhibitor (CPI) For Recurrent Glioblastoma (rGBM) At Various Timepoints Before OR After Laser Interstitial Thermotherapy (LITT) With Incorporation Of Integrated Biomarker (DVI)

Andrew Sloan

Ronald R. Tasker Young Investigator Award

Examining Attentional Bias In Chronic Pain: Effects Of Spinal Cord Stimulation

Ilknur Telkes

Zeiss Brain Tumor Award

Tumor Delineation In Meningioma With FG001, A Novel UPAR-targeting Fluorescent Agent For Optimizing Surgery

Jane Skjøth-Rasmussen

StacheStrong Award

GBM And The Environment: Incidence Of GBM And Water Pollutant Levels In Florida

Vratko Himic

Medtronic Award

Insights Into Radiotherapy Response And Meningioma Biology Through Molecular Characterization Of RTOG-0539 Clinical Trial

Leeor Yefet

Best Peripheral Nerve Abstract Award

Electro-Guided Nerve Conduits: Finite-Element Optimization Of Embedded Electrode Arrays For Critical-Gap Repair

Serajh Esmail

Duke Samson Award

Complement System Activation In Cerebrospinal Fluid After Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Correlates With Development Of Vasospasm And Shunt Dependence

Julia Pazniokas

Galbraith Award

Surgical Revascularization Resolves Asymmetry In Cortico-Cerebellar Vascular Reactivity And Resting-State Connectivity In Anterior Circulation Moyamoya

Srivats Srinivasan

NATUS/Resident Fellow Award for Neurocritical Care

A Breath-Based Diagnostic Platform for Detecting Traumatic Brain Injury Severity in Real Time

Dilmareth Natera

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 ABSTRACT AWARD WINNERS

Each year, merit-based abstract awards at the CNS Annual Meeting are granted to acknowledge outstanding submissions.

NATUS/Resident/Fellow Award for Traumatic Brain Injury

Interhospital Variation in Operative Intervention for Firearm-Related Penetrating Traumatic Brain Injury and Associations with Inpatient Mortality

Brij Karmur

Sherry Apple Resident Travel Scholarship (WINS) Award

TERT Expression Predicts Progression-Free Survival In Meningiomas Independent Of TERT Promoter Mutation

Chloe Gui

Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Best Basic Science Abstract Award

Single-Cell Sequencing Of Human Choroid Plexus Identifies Novel Targets For Molecular Therapy Of Hydrocephalus

Stuart Harper

Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Best Clinical Research Abstract Award

Diagnostic Performance Of MRI And CSF Cytology In Detecting Leptomenigeal Metastasis And Recurrence In Medulloblastoma: Implications For Surveillance Strategies

Zain Peeran

Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Resident Basic Science Award

Invasive Network Mapping Enables Personalized Multi-nodal Deep Brain Stimulation For Treatment-refractory Chronic Pain

Yuhao Huang

Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Resident Clinical Award

High-Resolution Electrophysiologic Mapping: From Cranial Nerves To The Central Sulcus

Daniel Cummins

Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Young Neurosurgeon Basic Science Award

Spinal Cord Stimulation Combined With Rehabilitation Improves Motor Function And Functional Connectivity In Spinal Cord Injury Patients

Luigi Albano

Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Young Neurosurgeon Clinical Award

Hippocampal Dosimetry And Neurocognitive Functions In Sellar And Parasellar Lesions Treated With Gamma Knife Radiosurgery

Sanubar Nazarli

Julius Goodman Resident Award

Emerging Trends In Private Equity-Backed Neurosurgical Care

Rishi Jain

Samuel Hassenbusch Young Neurosurgeon Award

Surgical Demand Elasticity In Neurosurgery During The COVID-19 Pandemic: A National Multicenter Analysis

Georgios Sioutas

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS



1ST PLACE

Johns Hopkins



2ND PLACE

UBNS



3RD PLACE

Stanford



4TH PLACE

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



5TH PLACE

Thomas Jefferson

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 POSTER AWARD WINNERS



Cerebrovascular

Best Basic Science Poster
Bypassing Surgical Failure: the Role of Biomarkers in Predicting Revascularization
 Maya Toothman

Best Basic Science Poster
Baseline Sex Differences and Minimal Stroke-Induced Immune Activity of the Choroid Plexus in Aged Mice
 Annabel McAtee

Best Clinical Research Poster
Predicting Catheter-Specific Mechanical Thrombectomy Outcomes Using Machine Learning
 Christopher Sollenberger

Best Clinical Research Poster
Clinical Presentation and Outcomes in Non-Traumatic, Non-Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
 Chris Aboujudom

Best Operative Technique Posters
Patient-Centered Microsurgical Strategies for Giant Intracranial Aneurysms Using Double Machine Learning
 Shrinit Babel

Best Operative Technique Posters
A Window to the Brain: Trans Sonolucent Cranioplasty Ultrasound for Long-Term STA-MCA Bypass Patency Monitoring
 Eric Grin

Data Science

Best Basic Science Poster
A Deep Learning Model for Ventricle Segmentation, 3D Reconstruction, and Ventriculomegaly Detection in Rodents
 Sundeep Chakladar

Best Basic Science Poster
Genomics-Enhanced Machine Learning Model Predicts Long-Term Opioid Use Following Spine Surgery
 Matthew Adam Sjöholm

Best Clinical Research Poster
Biological Age Outperforms Frailty in Predicting Outcomes After Brain Operations: A National Analysis of 29,000 Patients
 Ritvik Jillala

Best Operative Technique Posters
Can Synthetic Data Safely Expand Clinical Datasets in Rare Brain Tumors?
 Shrinit Babel

Best Operative Technique Posters
Training Artificial Intelligence to Recognize Surgical Steps in Microscope-based Videos of Middle Cerebral Artery Aneurysm Clipping
 Thomas On

Disparities in Healthcare

Best Basic Science Poster
Metabolic Syndrome As a Prognosticator of Survival in Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma
 Advith Sarikonda

Best Clinical Research Poster
Factors Contributing to Delays in Neurosurgical Care: A Systematic Review of Multilevel Barriers and Disparities
 Ta'Kiya Moore

Best Clinical Research Poster
Using Optic Nerve Sheath Diameter-Eyeball Transverse Diameter Index to Predict the Magnitude of Intracranial Pressure in Head CT Scans in Ghana
 Nina Dwumfour-Poku

Best Clinical Research Poster
Identifying Drivers of Language-based Disparities in Neurosurgical Care: A Qualitative Study
 Maria Cielito Robles

Best Operative Technique Posters
Bridging the Gap: Comparing Augmented Reality Neuronavigation Use Between Ethiopian and U.S. Neurosurgeons to Evaluate Feasibility in Low-Resource Settings
 Julia Sharma

Best Operative Technique Posters
Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Carotid Endarterectomy Outcomes: A Nationwide Study of 47,000 Patients
 Rodrigo Sandoval

Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves

Best Basic Science Poster
Development of a Gait-Based Dynamic Spinal Alignment Model: A Prospective Feasibility Study
 Tim Bui

Best Basic Science Poster
Assessing Ambulatory Dysfunction In A Mouse Model Of Metastatic Spine Disease.
 Seeley Yoo

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 POSTER AWARD

Best Clinical Research Poster

Extending the T4-L1 Hip Axis Framework: Predictive Values of Alignment Error in Short and Long Fusions for Adult Spinal Deformity

Karan Joseph

Best Clinical Research Poster

Performance of ChatGPT Versus Spine Surgeon As An Emergency Department Spine Call Consultant

Taha Taka

Best Operative Technique Posters

Ten-Step Technique for Navigated Tubular Transforaminal and Extraforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion

Ahmet Kartal

Best Operative Technique Posters

Avoiding Pin Related Injuries in MI TLIF: Complications Stratified by Green, Yellow, and Red Placement Zones

Chibuikem Ikwuegbuanyi

Medical Education & Training

Best Basic Science Poster

Educational and Professional Pathways to Leadership: A Profile of Neurosurgery Department Chairs and Program Directors in the United States

Adham Khalafallah

Neurotrauma & Critical Care

Best Basic Science Poster

Spatial Distribution of Blood Flow Predicts Recovery After Porcine Spinal Cord Injury

Denis Routkevitch

Best Basic Science Poster

Favorable Recovery Potential in Traumatic Brain Injury Patients Who Underwent Withdrawal of Life-Sustaining Therapy: An IMPACT Analysis of the National Trauma Data Bank

Saar Kariv

Best Clinical Research Poster

Comparative Outcomes in Moderate to Severe TBI Patients on Pre-injury Anticoagulation and Antiplatelet Therapies

Julian Burwell

Best Clinical Research Poster

Effectiveness of Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin Versus Unfractionated Heparin for Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis After Penetrating Brain Injury

Jiaqi Liu

Best Operative Technique Posters

Seizure Risk Following Surgical Treatment of Chronic Subdural Hematoma: A National Retrospective Cohort Analysis

Jason Sherman

Best Operative Technique Posters

Advancing Cranioplasty Techniques Through Exoscopic Magnification

Marcio Yuri Ferreira

Pain

Best Basic Science Poster

The Incidence of Eosinophilia in Refractory Chronic Pain Requiring Neuromodulation

Emma Sargent

Best Clinical Research Poster

Identifying Predictors of Long Term Success in Spinal Cord Stimulation for Chronic Pain: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Gabrielle Hammers

Best Operative Technique Posters

Palliative Focused Ultrasound Thalamotomy for Refractory Cancer Pain: Case Report Illustrating Targeting Methodology

Eun Young Choi

Pediatric

Best Basic Science Poster

BMAL1 Disruption Enhances Temozolomide Response and Eliminates Time-of-Day Treatment Effects in Pediatric High-Grade Glioma Models

Ella Nettnin

Best Clinical Research Poster

Association Between Foramen Size and Chiari Malformation in the Pediatric Population

Marcos Arciniega

Best Operative Technique Posters

Subpial Cerebellar Tonsillectomy for Decompression of the Cervicomedullary Junction in Children and Young Adults

David Laird

Peripheral Nerve

Best Basic Science Poster

Functional Correlates of Peripheral Nerve Stimulation: A Proof of Concept in Rodent Model of Sciatic Nerve Stimulation

Sebastian Lares

Best Clinical Research Poster

Peripheral Neurectomy With Nerve Cap Placement for Medically Refractory Supra-orbital and Post-herpetic Neuralgia: A Case Series

Saahas Rajendran

Best Operative Technique Posters

SAVI SCOUT Radar Localization for Peripheral Nerve Soft Tissue Lesions: A Novel Intraoperative Navigation Technique

Katelyn Candido

Stereotactic & Functional

Best Basic Science Poster

A Lateral Geniculate Nucleus Visual Prosthesis: Rodent Proof of Principle of a Novel Paradigm

Edward Bader

Best Clinical Research Poster

Electrode Type and Long-Term Clinical Response to RNS: A Single-Center Cohort With 5-Year Follow-Up

Matthew Wierzbicki

Best Operative Technique Posters

The Modern Utility of Awake DBS Surgery With Microelectrode Recording

Matthew Baker



CNS XPERIENCE LOUNGE HIGHLIGHTS



SPACE TO RELAX AND CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES AND PEERS





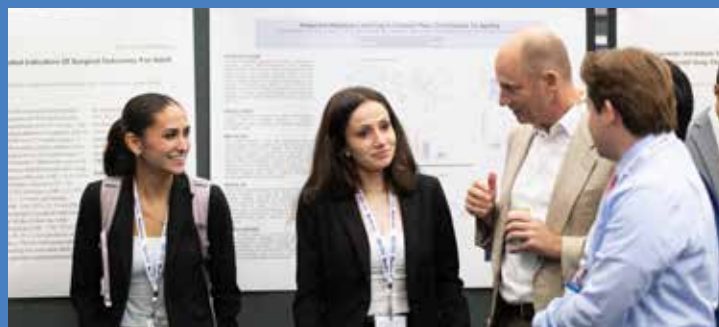
CNS XPERIENCE LOUNGE HIGHLIGHTS

continued

2025 CNS XPERIENCE LOUNGE HAPPENINGS



STRETCHING WITH PILIN ANICE



DIGITAL POSTERS



**LIVE SURGERY DURING ALL EXHIBIT HALL
BEVERAGE BREAKS, MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND
WEDNESDAY**



MENTORING/COACHING SESSIONS WITH EVOLVE



CNS XPERIENCE LOUNGE HIGHLIGHTS

continued



THE ART OF NEUROSURGERY



LIFESTYLES LOUNGE- FEATURING VENDORS AND AFFINITY PROGRAMS THAT ENHANCE NEUROSURGEON'S LIFE BEYOND THE OPERATING ROOM.

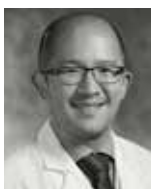
ALL DAY CAPPUCCINO CAFE



Daniel J. Hoh, MD, FCNS
President



Edjah K. Nduom, MD, FCNS
Annual Meeting Chair



Khoi Than, MD, FCNS
Scientific Program Chair



Akash J. Patel, MD, FCNS
Vice-Scientific Program Chair

 CNS
EDUCATIONAL DIVISION



Under the leadership of **Chair Laura Snyder** and **Vice Chair Anand Veeravagu**, the CNS Education Division built on the foundation laid in previous years with a focus in 2025 on expanding and reinforcing the high value educational content that the CNS provides for neurosurgeons across all career stages and practice settings.

This year we held three successful live courses, while continuing to deliver essential content to our members at home through five virtual courses, several of which reached record numbers of attendees this year. Additionally, we have continued to add new accessible content to our Neurosurgery Survival Guide, which is housed in the CNS+ App. All of this was accomplished through the efforts of more than 100 volunteer committee and work group members and over 250 faculty members.

2025 Tumor Complications Course

February 22 and 23, 2025
Nashville, TN

In February, surgeons gathered in Nashville for an expert-led forum focused on complications in brain tumor surgery. Led by course directors, Costas Hadjipanayis and Daniel Prevedello, attendees presented their challenging cases, shared lessons learned, and discussed clinical decisions, operative techniques, safety concerns, and strategies to improve outcomes and complication management.

Total CME Claimed: (Hours)

41.25

2025 Spine Complications Course

March 28-30, 2025
Park City, UT

In March, the CNS hosted the annual Spine Complications Course in Park City, Utah. One of CNS's longest standing and most popular courses, the Spine Complications Course uses an interactive case-based format to help attendees recognize factors that lead to complications and poor outcomes when treating spine disorders and discuss new and different strategies for how to best resolve spine surgery complications should they arise. Lead by course directors, Drs. Anand Veeravagu, Adam S. Kanter and Praveen V. Mummaneni, this program invited participants to present a complicated case of their own for discussion with peers and expert faculty on management and preventative strategies.

Total CME Claimed: (Hours)

307

2025 Skull Base

August 28-29, 2025
Cleveland, OH

This fall the CNS once again gathered early career neurosurgeons in Cleveland, OH for the Skull-Base Fellows Course, led by Dr. Nicholas Bambakidis and a team of 22 expert faculty. This rigorous two-day course combined lectures, case-based discussions, and cadaveric dissections to cover the basic surgical approaches and anatomy required of every skull base neurosurgeon.

Total CME Claimed: (Hours)

103.25

2025 SANS Written Board Review Course

February 1, 2025

In February, the CNS once again hosted the SANS Written Board Course online. Attendees took advantage of this opportunity to study together for the ABNS Primary Exam in an interactive format. The one-day intensive review, led by Dr. Kunal Vakharia, provided summative didactic sessions covering the breadth of neuroanatomy, neurobiology, neuropathology, neuroimaging, neurology, neurosurgery, critical care, and core competencies—from synaptic physiology to cranial nerve anatomy to complex spine surgery. Each lecture incorporated live SANS questions to help learners test their knowledge through a combination of interactive polling, verbal questions and written response.

2025 Oral Board Review Courses

Spring Oral Board March 1-2 (214)

Fall Oral Board Sept. 6-7 (191.75)

The CNS continued hosting our popular Oral Board Review Courses virtually in 2025. Held in March and September, these highly interactive courses were designed to prepare surgeons for the case-based nature of the exam with multiple learning formats, including didactic, faculty vs. faculty quiz demonstrations, case presentations, small-group discussions and one-on-one sessions. This year's courses were led by Drs. Laura Snyder and Robert Spinner, along with 24 other expert faculty. In addition to the virtual courses, we have continued to host post-course Hot Seat Monday sessions for course attendees. Combined with the course weekend, these sessions provide participants with a chance to review for the exam weekly for six weeks ahead of their exam.

Total combined CME claimed: (Hours) **405.75**

2025 Neurosurgical Emergencies Course

April 2, 9, 16, 2025

Designed for neurosurgeons, neurosurgery advanced practice providers (APPs), neurologists, intensivists, and emergency medicine physicians, the Neurosurgical Emergencies Course provided information about state-of-the-art diagnosis, workup and first-line treatments for neurosurgical emergencies. Led by course directors Ryan Kitagawa, David Okonkwo and Philipp Taussky, as well as a team of world experts in neurocritical care, the program covered resuscitation, advances in stroke management, the ever-changing landscape of anticoagulation, TBI, spine trauma, postoperative management, prognosis, and the care of the elderly with neurosurgical issues.

Artificial Intelligence in Neurosurgery: A Practical Course

May 31, 2025

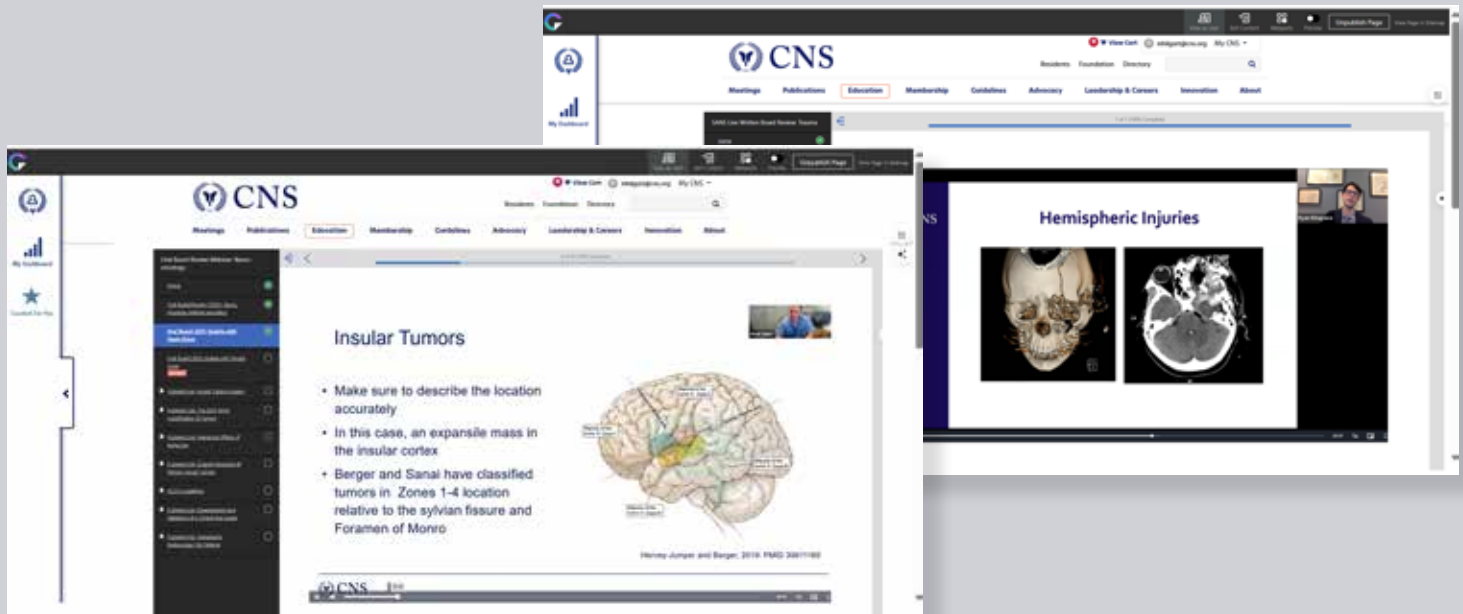
This spring, the CNS reworked its Data Science course to focus on real world examples and guidance on how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to make neurosurgical practice better for neurosurgeons and their patients. Led by course directors Rui Feng and Eric Oermann, this new course aimed to help neurosurgeons, junior academic faculty, and residents understand how to incorporate AI tools into their clinical practice and to critically evaluate models for their transparency, reliability, and efficacy.

Total CME Claimed: (Hours) **659.5**

Total CME Claimed: (Hours) **63**

CNS ONLINE LEARNING

This year we offered 159 activities in the online catalog, which included podcasts, special series, online courses, and webinars. A total of 1,004.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits have been claimed to date.



Webinars:

- In June, the CNS updated five of the webinars in our seven-part Oral Board Review webinar series.
- We also released an updated webinar titled Vestibular Schwannoma Management Guidelines: Update 2025.

Podcasts:

- The CNS recorded 12 Journal Club Podcasts in 2025, which have been played 9,600 times.
- The CNS introduced three new podcast series focused on CNS' core competencies—leadership, innovation and wellness. Along with our popular Controversies in Neurosurgery series, these four podcasts rotate on a monthly basis and have received 10,600 combined plays across all series.
- Four new residents joined the Podcast committee, led by Kimberly Hoang and Rafael Vega.
- The CNS has partnered with RosmanSearch on a joint podcast that will take place quarterly for three years, covering relevant topics to help neurosurgeons navigate various aspects of their career.
- The CNS is excited to offer sponsored podcasts! This fall we recorded an episode on Minimally Invasive Parafascicular Surgery (MIPS) for Intracerebral Hemorrhage (ICH), sponsored by Stryker.

CNS
ONLINE LEARNING
continued



Virtual Town Hall Series

In 2025, the CNS hosted a series of three virtual town halls intended to introduce Residents to practice settings beyond academic institutions. Led by Drs. Jason Ellis and Rupa Juthani, these virtual sessions were developed based on feedback from both CNS Resident Members and by members of the Practice Based Neurosurgery Committee.

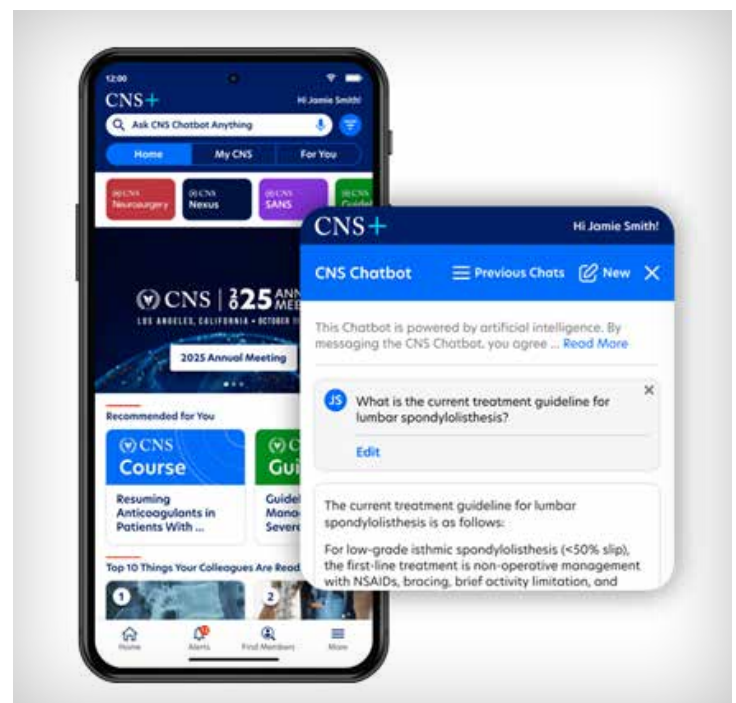
- **Running a Successful Private Practice - February 8, 2025**
 - **Faculty:** Anthony L. D'Ambrosio, President and CEO, Neurosurgeons of New Jersey
- **Marketing Yourself to Prospective Employers - May 6, 2025**
 - **Faculty:** Andrea Winslow, Rosman Search
- **Take the Road, Even if Less Taken: Considerations for Transitioning Between Practice Settings - August 12, 2025**
 - **Faculty:** Deborah L. Benzil, Vice Chair, Neurosurgery at Cleveland Clinic

CNS+ app

<https://www.cns.org/cns-plus-app>

The CNS is revolutionizing neurological practice with a groundbreaking AI-enhanced interface integrated into the new CNS+ app. Tailored education, and exclusive tools at your fingertips—whether you're headed to the operating room, clinic, or on the go!

- **Instant Answers:** AI-enhanced search engine, delivering results 90% faster.
- **Personalized Education:** Receive recommendations tailored to your needs.
- **Exclusive CNS Member Access:** Unlock CNS Guidelines, Nexus, Neurosurgery, and more!
- **Transform your practice:** Access critical information anytime, anywhere.



— SANS —

<https://www.cns.org/education/sans-lifelong-learning>

In 2025, the SANS Committee continued to build upon our partnership with the ABNS for the essential CNS SANS ABNS Primary Board Examination Review modules. The modules incorporate actual question stems from the ABNS Primary Examination into CNS' peer-reviewed self-assessment question format, and in turn, the CNS contributed over 60 questions for inclusion in the primary exam. This go-to resource for Primary Examination study allows candidates to test their knowledge of the topics covered in the Primary Board Examination, while receiving immediate feedback and a detailed rationale for the correct answer, as well as links to supplemental references for continued study. In 2025, 68 programs utilized these modules for primary exam preparation.

The committee also met virtually over the summer to update the module exams with 20% new content. These exams are available as 100-question modules covering individual subspecialty areas—neuropathology, functional neurosurgery, pain and peripheral nerve, pediatric neurosurgery, spine, trauma and neurocritical care, tumor and vascular. A 700-question bundle is also available, which includes all seven subspecialty modules.

We are, as always, grateful to the volunteer members of the SANS committee who dedicate hundreds of hours every year writing, reviewing and updating questions to ensure all exams stay fresh and relevant to today's practice.

SANS by the numbers:

14
SANS
Exams

1000
SANS Flashcards
360 SANS Flashcard decks sold

2237.75
AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
claimed on SANS exams

68
Programs subscribed to the CNS
SANS ABNS Review Bundle

DID YOU KNOW?

Two of our SANS Exams—SANS: Indications (150 questions) and SANS: Leadership (20 questions) are included in the CNS Online Education Subscription. This member exclusive offering gives you access to more than \$7,500 worth of online education and 150 hours of CME, across all clinical and non-clinical areas of neurosurgical practice, for only \$19.99 per month.

— NEXUS —

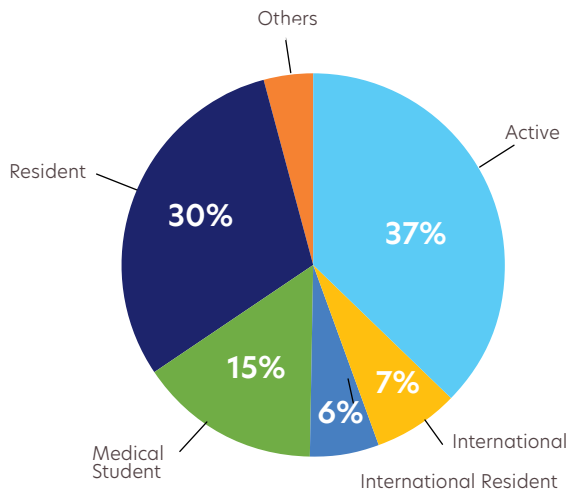
<https://www.cns.org/nexus/cases>

Nexus, a decade after launching, provides CNS members with the benefit of access to a comprehensive online library of more than 700 neurosurgical cases and 60 approaches. The site includes cases from over 280 surgeons demonstrating differences in technique, enabling users to strengthen their grasp on indications for surgery and understand when medical management is a good alternative. This year at the CNS Annual Meeting the Nexus Committee hosted their first sunrise session giving attendees a glimpse of the cases

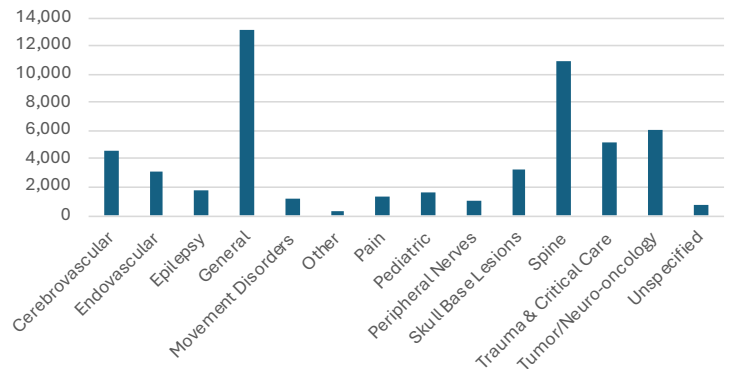
featured in Nexus that foster the potential to significantly improve trainee preparation, knowledge, and surgical skills. Nexus cases were also featured in the GSS debates highlighting different surgical approaches.

All surgeons are encouraged to submit their unusual cases and everyday approaches so we can continue to grow our Nexus case archive and enable all users to thrive through educational exchange.

Total Visits by Member Type



Total Visits by Subspecialty



TOP 10 MOST VIEWED CASES

- Endonasal Endoscopic Approach for Prolactinoma Failed Medical Management
- Far Lateral Approach
- 5-ALA fluorescence guided surgery for GBM
- Retrosigmoid Approach
- 2-Level arthroplasty for cervical spondylosis
- Pterional Approach
- Anterior cervical discectomy and fusion for cervical radiculopathy
- Left pterional craniotomy for posterior communicating artery aneurysm
- Superior Parietal Lobule Approach
- Acute Subdural Hematoma Craniotomy Evacuation

A decade after its conception, the case repository continues to evolve and thrive in the neurosurgical educational space. Nexus is a truly democratic effort within the CNS that anyone can volunteer to help build.



Users are encouraged to login through the CNS website, review the Nexus content, and follow the “About” link to <https://www.cns.org/nexus/acknowledgements-volunteering> to view the complete Nexus Editorial Board listing and learn how you can contribute.



EDUCATIONAL DIVISION

continued

EDUCATION DIVISION LEADERSHIP



Laura Snyder, MD, FCNS
Chair



Anand Veeravagu, MD, FCNS
Vice Chair



Akash J. Patel, MD, FCNS
Education Division Sr. Advisor

ONLINE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



Jeffrey P. Mullin, MD, FCNS
Chair

SANS COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Kunal Vakharia, MD, FCNS
Vice Chair



Laura A. Snyder, MD, FCNS
SANS Committee Sr. Advisor

NEXUS COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Joseph Osorio, MD, FCNS
Chair



CNS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The **CNS Leadership Institute** marked its tenth year with the addition of a new CNS Executive Leadership in Healthcare Course in 2025. The Executive course, designed for advanced career surgeons in executive leadership roles, rounded out the Leadership Institute curriculum, which also includes a Vanguard Leadership In Healthcare Course for mid-career neurosurgical leaders, and the original CNS Leadership in Healthcare Course for early-career surgeons and rising neurosurgical leaders.



The Leadership Institute curriculum is uniquely designed to help surgeons understand diverse perspectives, communicate across all levels of the organization, and more effectively lead teams and advance their projects. It covers both health care business content, such as hospital finance and health system alignment, as well as essential leadership skills like change management and communication strategies, in order to prepare neurosurgeons to engage in meaningful dialog with administrators

The 2025 Leadership Institute program kicked off in August with a series of pre-course webinars, including “Leadership Essentials,” a leadership project workshop and “Leveraging your Leadership Strengths.” These webinars helped prepare the 2025 Leadership Fellows for the intensive live courses held November 13-15 in Chicago. In addition to the pre-course webinar series, the 2025 Fellows completed the CliftonStrengths Assessment prior to the live courses, to identify their unique leadership strengths. And participants identified individual leadership projects, which they planned to pursue within their home institutions or in organized neurosurgery.

The in-person workshops in Chicago were led by neurosurgeon leaders—Drs. **Alan Scarrow**, **Maryam Rahman** and **Scott Wait** for the junior attending course, Drs. **Odette Harris**, **Ashwini Sharan**,

Scott Wait and **Maryam Rahman** for the Vanguard course, and Drs. **Elad Levy**, **Alexander Khalessi**, **Bob Carter** and **Odette Harris** for the Executive course—as well as a group of organizational leadership and health care finance experts from Stanford, University of Illinois Chicago, Sentara Health, Medtronic and Stryker. These experts, along with Leadership Institute committee course directors, **Ellen Air**, **Anand Veeravagu**, **Rushna Ali** and **Jason Ellis**, led 38 leaders in the field through two days of critical leadership content and facilitated small-group discussion of real-world decision scenarios faced by administrative and neurosurgical leaders. Participants applied the concepts learned from the weekend courses to their individual projects and their institutional roles, gaining insight from faculty and peer mentors to overcome obstacles while working toward their personal and organizational goals. The program also included a joint networking dinner where participants and faculty from all three courses could connect and discuss their leadership challenges, as well as a shared negotiations session featuring a panel of all neurosurgeon faculty members.

Following the live courses, Leadership Institute fellows returned to their home institutions and practices to continue work on their individual projects, armed with new knowledge, skills and connections to help them overcome obstacles and effect their desired change. The program will continue in 2026 with supplemental



CNS

CNS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

continued



webinars covering “Leading Self and Others,” “Neurosurgeons as Change Agents,” and “Hospital Institutional Decision Making,” as well as a final report-out session and networking breakfast during the CNS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, where selected participants will share their progress and challenges around the leadership projects they are pursuing and gain feedback from their colleagues. The end result is a dynamic and adaptive learning experience unlike anything available in our specialty, which has been well received by participants and their mentors back home.

In addition to the new Executive Course, the CNS was proud to expand its collaboration with industry leaders for the 2025 program. Our Founding Partner, Medtronic, has supported the Leadership Institute since its inception, and in 2025 Stryker joined at the Visionary Partner level. Beyond financial support, both companies brought valued executives and corporate leaders to Chicago to serve as faculty and share their unique insights. The alignment of vision and synergy between CNS and our corporate

partners’ resources, has been instrumental in the program’s growth and we look forward to expanding the program further in the years ahead.

To date, more than 235 CNS Members have participated in the program, developing their leadership skills and business acumen while working on critical projects within their own institutions. We can count among our alumni three Neurosurgery Chairs, 20 Residency Program Directors, 16 current CNS Executive Committee members, and more than 100 members of standing committees, joint committees and editorial boards critical to neurosurgery.

In today’s health care environment, the role of a modern neurosurgeon includes health care leadership. Change management, communication and negotiation skills are as critical to the role as surgical training and knowledge. The CNS is proud to continue growing this essential program in support of the current and future leaders of our specialty.



Ellen L. Air, MD, FCNS

Director, CNS Leadership Institute



Anand Veeravagu, MD, FCNS

Chair



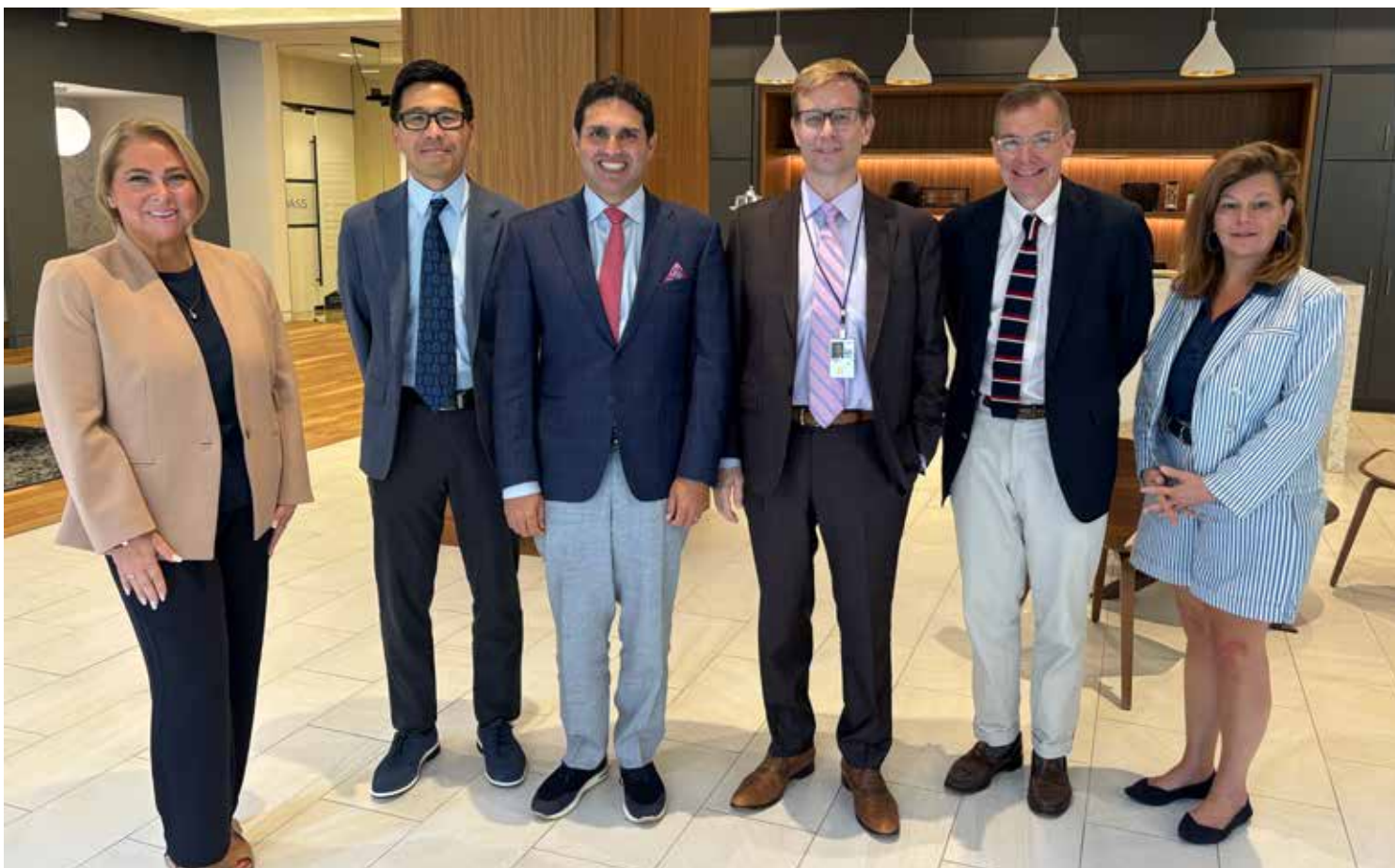
Jason Ellis, MD, FCNS

Vice Chair



WASHINGTON REPORT

Through advocacy, policy development and public relations, the CNS plays a vital role in advancing neurosurgery's key health care initiatives on Capitol Hill.



The 119th Congress and A New Administration

The legislative and regulatory landscape shifts with every new Administration and Congress, presenting both challenges and opportunities for advancing neurosurgery priorities. Whether this moment represents an unparalleled opportunity or a formidable challenge depends on how organizations engage.

The Washington Committee is committed to a proactive, solutions-oriented approach that fosters collaboration with the Trump Administration and 119th Congress, ensuring that neurosurgery maintains a seat at the table. By constructively engaging with key decision-makers, we can help shape policies that support neurosurgeons, advance patient care, and uphold regulatory frameworks that enhance innovation and access.



AANS/CNS Washington
Committee for
Neurological Surgery

WASHINGTON REPORT

continued

In 2025, the Washington Committee concentrated its efforts on advancing policies across its core priorities:

- **Champion Fair Reimbursement:** Improve the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule through inflation-based updates, protect global surgery payments, strengthen payment dispute resolution processes, expand telehealth flexibilities, and address Medicaid reimbursement disparities.
- **Reduce Administrative Burdens:** Reform prior authorization, step therapy, and Medicare's appropriate use criteria to prevent delays in medically necessary neurosurgical care.
- **Increase GME Funding:** Expand Medicare-supported residency positions and preserve existing training structures to sustain high-quality neurosurgical education.
- **Improve Health Care Competition:** Address consolidation trends, support physician ownership of medical facilities, broaden provider networks, and advance tax policies that expand insurance coverage.
- **Boost Federal Research Investments:** Prioritize NIH funding, protect research infrastructure, foster physician-industry collaboration, and support medical innovation.



Neurosurgery Delegation members Joshua Rosenow, Krystal Tomei, Laura Stone McGuire, Brian Gantwerker, and neurosurgeon Monica Wehby at the American Medical Association Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland

Shaping Outcomes in Budget Reconciliation

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), released March 11, was the 119th Congress's first major legislative test. Budget reconciliation allows fiscal legislation to pass with a simple majority and often becomes the vehicle for sweeping structural policy changes. Recognizing both the speed and scope of the process, the Washington Committee engaged early, focusing on four priorities: mitigating destabilizing Medicaid restructuring, securing Medicare physician payment stability, preventing harmful student loan caps, and preserving tax policies critical to independent physician practices.

The House package included significant Medicaid restructuring, including limits on provider taxes, new eligibility requirements, caps on state-directed payments, and more frequent eligibility redeterminations. Several provisions risked shifting financial pressure onto states and safety-net providers without addressing chronic underpayment and managed care instability. The Washington Committee led a coalition of specialty societies urging lawmakers to avoid blunt cost-shifting measures that would disrupt access to specialty and trauma care. A follow-on letter from the Trauma Coalition warned that certain funding changes could destabilize emergency departments, particularly in rural areas where Medicaid is the dominant payer. Early engagement ensured specialty physician concerns were incorporated into negotiations and helped blunt the more destabilizing elements.

The most consequential battle centered on Medicare physician payment reform. The House-passed bill included a partial Medicare Economic Index update beginning in 2026, valued at approximately \$9 billion in net spending and more than \$40 billion in gross payments over ten years. It represented the most meaningful structural movement toward inflation-based physician payment stability in decades. That provision was removed from the initial Senate draft.

Within days, the Washington Committee organized and led a 75-organization coalition urging Senate leadership to restore the update and revive bipartisan Medicare reform discussions. The coalition unified physician and non-physician clinician organizations around the message that continued payment erosion threatens practice viability and accelerates consolidation. Following targeted lobbying and coalition pressure, the final reconciliation package included a 2.5 percent increase to the Physician Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2026. While narrower than the House language, it preserved the only direct physician payment increase in the bill.

Reconciliation also advanced sweeping student loan changes, including the elimination of Grad PLUS and strict lifetime borrowing caps. The Washington Committee joined a broad physician coalition warning that these provisions would deter entry into high-debt specialties and worsen workforce shortages. The final Senate package raised the professional borrowing cap to \$200,000 and \$257,500 in aggregate, mitigating the most restrictive elements.



From left to right: The Neurosurgery Delegation on behalf of the AANS and CNS: Jason Schwalb, Maya Babu, Brian Gantwerker, and Krystal Tomei at the AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The Committee also successfully restored the Pass-Through Entity Tax deduction, which enables physician practices to bypass the \$10,000 federal SALT cap by paying state taxes at the entity level, protecting small and independent groups from disproportionate federal tax liability. The deduction helps practices retain more capital to reinvest in staffing, technology, and patient care.

The bill was signed into law on July 4, 2025.

Protecting the US Research Infrastructure

In January 2025, the National Institutes of Health proposed a sweeping policy to cap indirect cost reimbursement at 15 percent for all NIH-supported grants. The proposal departed from long-standing negotiated rates established under government-wide standards and would have significantly reduced support for laboratories, compliance systems, and administrative infrastructure that sustain federally-funded research.

The Washington Committee received substantive policy guidance from neurosurgical leadership, including then-CNS President **Daniel Hoh**, MD, FCNS, and then-AANS President **Jacques Morcos**, MD, FCNS, whose clinical and institutional expertise strengthened the policy letter. Working in coordination with neurosurgery's

representatives in the American Medical Association House of Delegates, including CNS Delegate **Ann Stroink**, MD, FCNS, the Committee recruited over 40 national physician organizations. Washington Committee Chair **Alexander A. Khalessi**, MD, MBA, FCNS, generated national media attention, with coverage in Becker's Spine Review, the American Medical Association's platforms, and major regional and specialty outlets, recognizing neurosurgery's role in leading the entire physician community on this issue.

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, which highlighted the letter, included language blocking implementation of the policy and reinforcing limits on unilateral NIH authority. That language was preserved in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, signed into law, maintaining negotiated indirect cost rates.

Instability Grows in Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

On October 31, CMS finalized the CY 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, further deepening instability for procedural specialties. Earlier in the year, the AANS and CNS submitted detailed comments on the proposed rule, raising serious concerns about the agency's assumptions and warning that the changes would disproportionately affect high-acuity, facility-based care.



WASHINGTON REPORT

continued

Most concerning is a 2.5 percent “efficiency adjustment” that reduces work RVUs and intraservice times for nearly all non-time-based services based on the assumption that physicians deliver care more quickly as they gain experience. The policy disproportionately impacts procedural specialties and further devalues global surgical codes that were excluded from prior inflationary updates applied to evaluation and management services. Additional reductions are scheduled every three years indefinitely.

CMS also finalized sweeping revisions to practice expense methodology, sharply reducing indirect cost allocations for facility-based services. By shifting resources toward office-based evaluation and management codes, the changes risk destabilizing reimbursement for neurosurgeons practicing in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

The Coding and Reimbursement Subcommittee, previously chaired by **G. Edward Vates**, MD, FCNS,, led the specialty’s response, coordinating data-driven advocacy, formal rulemaking comments, and coalition engagement to challenge the flawed assumptions underlying both policies. The Washington Committee has since advanced legislative concepts, including an employed physician modifier framework now under bipartisan review.

Amid these broader concerns, targeted advocacy produced a significant win. Following direct engagement led by Subcommittee Chair-Elect **Clemens M. Schirmer**, MD, PhD, FCNS, CMS reversed its proposal to reduce the value of CPT code 61624, reinstating the RUC-recommended 20.00 work RVUs and recognizing the intensity and risk associated with these life-saving procedures.

Escalating Oversight and Structural Reform in Prior Authorization

Prior authorization reform moved to the center of federal health policy in 2025, with scrutiny intensifying across both Medicare Advantage and traditional Medicare. Early in the year, federal officials convened insurers to announce voluntary prior authorization reform pledges aimed at streamlining approvals and increasing transparency. While welcomed as a signal of responsiveness, the Washington Committee emphasized that voluntary commitments cannot substitute for enforceable statutory standards and meaningful accountability.

Attention quickly shifted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation’s Wasteful and Inappropriate Services Reduction (WiSeR) Model. Beginning January 2026, the six-year mandatory demonstration will apply third-party vendor prior authorization to selected “low-

value” services in traditional Medicare across six states (NJ, OH, OK, TX, AZ, WA), including spinal procedures, neurostimulator implants, vertebral augmentation, and pain management interventions. The model represents a significant policy shift, introducing utilization management mechanisms into traditional Medicare that mirror practices widely criticized in Medicare Advantage.

The Washington Committee’s response was led by the Quality Subcommittee, chaired by **John Knightly**, MD, FCNS, with Chair-Elect **Anthony DiGiorgio**, DO, MHA, FCNS, coordinating specialty input and strategy. Through the Regulatory Relief Coalition, of which AANS and CNS are founding members, and in coordination with national surgical coalitions, formal comments were submitted opposing WiSeR on grounds of access disruption, administrative burden, and perverse vendor payment incentives. During the July Washington Committee meeting, leadership spent a day lobbying congressional offices, which prompted immediate bipartisan scrutiny, and CMMI scheduled a meeting to address concerns. During hearings before the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees, lawmakers raised concerns about algorithmic and AI-driven prior authorization, specifically citing WiSeR.

Congressional action followed. Representatives **Lois Frankel** (D-FL) and **Andy Harris**, MD (R-MD) successfully advanced an amendment in the FY 2026 health spending bill to block WiSeR implementation. Representatives **Suzan DelBene** (D-WA), **Ami Bera**, MD (D-CA), and others introduced the Seniors Deserve SMARTER Care Act to repeal the model, with companion legislation introduced by Senator **Patty Murray** (D-WA). Representative **Greg Landsman** (D-OH) introduced the Ban AI Denials in Medicare Act to prohibit AI-driven prior authorization in Medicare demonstrations.

Sustained pressure produced measurable changes. Most notably, deep brain stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson’s disease was removed from the targeted services list following targeted engagement spearheaded by Drugs and Devices Subcommittee Chair **Joshua Rosenow**, MD, FCNS. CMMI also delayed percutaneous image-guided lumbar decompression, removed spinal arthrodesis (CPT 22585), revised documentation requirements, and clarified that professional claims would not be automatically denied if facility claims fail authorization. CMMI committed to improving transparency around clinical guidelines and developing a gold-carding pathway.

Parallel to WiSeR oversight, the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act continued to gain bipartisan momentum, closing the year with 243 House and 65 Senate cosponsors. As a founding member of the Regulatory Relief Coalition, the Washington Committee remains central to advancing this legislation, which modernizes Medicare



WASHINGTON REPORT

continued

Advantage prior authorization through electronic processes, transparency requirements, and real-time decision standards.

Permanent Fentanyl Scheduling Signed into Law

For the first time, Congress permanently classified fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I, ending years of temporary extensions and closing loopholes exploited by illicit manufacturers. As lawmakers strategized on advancing the HALT Fentanyl Act, congressional committees reached out directly to the AANS and CNS for clinical guidance and support.

The Washington Committee responded with detailed policy letters to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, ensuring that enforcement language targeting illicit analogues did not unintentionally restrict legitimate medical use or scientific innovation. The Drugs and Devices Subcommittee, chaired by **Joshua Rosenow**, MD, FCNS, provided technical expertise on opioid access, DEA registration requirements, and perioperative pain management.

Congressional staff cited the Washington Committee as instrumental in securing broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate. It was signed into law on July 16, 2025, and was led by U.S. Senators **Bill Cassidy**, MD (R-LA), **Martin Heinrich** (D-NM), **Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), and **Roger Marshall**, MD (R-KS), and Representatives **H. Morgan Griffith** (D-VA), **Robert Latta** (R-OH), **Brett Guthrie** (R-KY), **Richard Hudson** (R-NC), and more.

Neurosurgery Blog: Advancing Policy Through Strategic Communications

The Neurosurgery Blog continued to serve as a core policy amplification platform for the Washington Committee in 2025, translating complex federal debates into accessible analysis aligned with the specialty's legislative and regulatory priorities. Over a dozen

advocacy-focused articles were published this year, with content directly supporting the Committee's work on administrative burden, research funding, competition, and innovation.

A multi-part prior authorization series became a central communications initiative. The series examined federal and state reforms, insurer consolidation, and the implications of CMMI's WISer model, reinforcing the Washington Committee's advocacy against algorithmic and AI-driven denials. Neurosurgeons including **Richard P. Menger**, MD, MPA, FCNS, amplified these concerns nationally, including in a TIME investigation highlighting insurer market dominance and its real-world consequences for patient access. The series complemented formal coalition letters and congressional engagement, ensuring neurosurgery's voice remained visible beyond Capitol Hill.

The blog also launched a dedicated series marking the 75th anniversary of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). In the first installment, Celebrating 75 Years of NINDS: The Legacy and Impact of the Surgical Neurology Branch, **Kareem A. Zaghoul**, MD, PhD, detailed how the Surgical Neurology Branch helped merge surgical innovation with neuroscience research, spotlighting figures such as **Maitland Baldwin**, MD, **Ayub K. Ommaya**, MD, **Edward H. Oldfield**, MD, and **Russell R. Lonser**, MD. A subsequent post, Celebrating 75 Years of NINDS: Dr. Christopher Getch's Enduring Impact on Neurosurgery and Service, authored by **Joshua Rosenow**, MD, **Bernard Bendok**, MD, and **Hunt Batjer**, MD, traced Dr. Getch's clinical, educational, and advocacy legacy, including the NINDS/CNS K12 Getch Scholar Award and related honors.

Complementary posts broadened this narrative of leadership and service. **Ashok R. Asthagiri**, MD, FCNS, honored the legacy of **Mark E. Shaffrey**, MD, FCNS, including his contributions to advocacy and NeurosurgeryPAC. **Krystal L. Tomei**, MD, MPH, FACS, FAAP, FCNS highlighted legislative successes in pediatric neurosurgery, while other features explored Open Payments transparency, neurosurgery's military history, and humanitarian work in Ukraine.



Alexander Khalessi, MD, MBA, FACS, FCNS
Chair, Washington Committee



Charlotte Pineda, MPP
Vice President, Health Policy and Advocacy

 CNS
GUIDELINES PROGRAM



For more than 20 years, the CNS has demonstrated its commitment to the development of neurosurgical guidelines by supporting an in-house infrastructure, including robust methodological processes, to produce high-quality evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. **Practice Guidelines** establish the standards for neurosurgical practice. The 26 published guidelines have been cited more than 6,000 times in academic journals and are among the most frequently accessed resources on CNS' website and podcast catalog.

In 2025, the CNS continued to advance the practice of neurosurgery through the development of clinical practice guidelines. Members of the CNS Guidelines Committee and its associated task forces—approximately 200 members, under the direction of Drs. Joseph Osorio (Chair), Tiffany Hodges (Vice Chair) and Nicole Bentley (Vice Chair)—submitted four guidelines for publication and continued work on guidelines in development as well as four new practice parameters. The CNS Guidelines Department supports committee and task force volunteers in all aspects of the development process, from topic refinement and development of clinical questions to publication and dissemination.

The CNS also continues to advance an unprecedented and successful multi-year partnership with the Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves to publish a comprehensive Perioperative Spine Guideline, including three parts—preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative. Significant progress was made this year and the intraoperative guideline has been submitted for publication in early 2026. This initiative is funded by a generous donation from the Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves to the CNS Foundation.

Program Highlights

- 19 guideline topics and practice parameters are currently in development
- CNS Guidelines Podcast Series published new episodes on all new guideline topics, with over 42,000 listens.
- New topics published in 2025:
 - Brain Metastases Emerging Therapies Update
 - Functioning Pituitary Adenoma
 - Low Grade Glioma Update
 - Vestibular Schwannoma Update



Joseph Osorio, MD, FCNS
Chair



Tiffany R. Hodges, MD, FCNS
Vice Chair



Nicole Bentley, MD, FCNS
Vice Chair



INNOVATION: DATA SCIENCE INITIATIVES

As part of our mission to advance health and improve lives, the CNS is committed bringing together thought leaders in neurosurgery to collaborate around challenges facing our specialty and drive the innovations that improve patient care. Through the work of the Data Science and Technology Committee, we continue to drive the development and evaluation of novel strategies that improve data science initiatives related to neurosurgery, as well as to educate practicing neurosurgeons on how they can apply these data science tools in their own practice to improve health outcomes.

Data Science Abstract award

Congratulations to our 2025 Data Science Abstract award winner.

Todd Hollon, MD

General Machine Intelligence for Clinical Neuroimaging



Artificial Intelligence in Neurosurgery: A Practical Course

On May 31, the CNS hosted Artificial Intelligence in Neurosurgery: a practical course focused on real world examples and guidance for neurosurgeons who want to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into their practice. Led by Rui Feng and Eric Oermann, this virtual course aimed to help neurosurgeons, junior academic faculty, and residents understand how to critically evaluate AI models for their transparency, reliability, and efficacy.

For more details, see the Education Division report on page 36.



Eric K. Oermann, MD, FCNS

Chair, CNS Data Science & Technology Committee



Mohamad Bydon, MD, FCNS

Senior Advisor, Guidelines and Data Science Committees



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with Organized Neurosurgery to Advance Neurosurgical Training and Patient Care

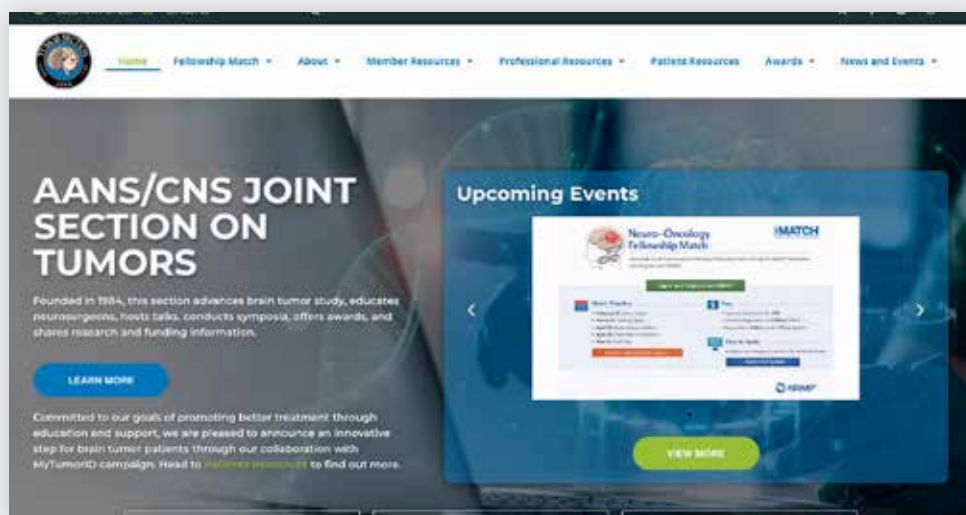
The Congress of Neurological Surgeons is committed to partnering with adjacent specialty and subspecialty societies to develop content and programs that advance the specialty and ultimately improve patient care. To that end, we continued to advance our partnership with the Sections and other neurosurgical organizations in 2025

Section Partnerships

For years, the CNS has partnered with the Sections, leveraging our reputation for relevant content, evidence-based guidelines development, and innovative program delivery with the Sections' subspecialty expertise to deliver unparalleled educational programs and resources and provide outstanding service to members and volunteers

Section on Tumor

The CNS was excited to partner again with the Tumor Section, for their 2025 Tumor Section Symposium, focused on neurosurgeons as clinical scientists and managing recurrence in neuro-oncology. A team of subspecialty experts, led by Section Chair, Costas G. Hadjipanayis, explained the application of innovative treatment strategies for patients with brain and spine tumors at diagnosis and recurrence. There was discussion on how neurosurgeons are pushing beyond traditional surgical boundaries to innovate, advocate, and advance patient care. It explored newer intraoperative visualization and detection technologies; impactful community outreach to advocate for brain tumor patients; emerging brain tumor molecular diagnostics; adjunct therapies such as laser interstitial therapy and sonodynamic therapy; the role of cancer neuroscience for the neurosurgical



oncologist; and the implementation of biological and molecular treatments in the operating room to address invisible or microscopic disease beyond the reach of

the scalpel. The symposium also includes dedicated mentorship sessions on building a lab, securing grant funding, and publishing in high-impact journals.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with Organized Neurosurgery to Advance Neurosurgical Training and Patient Care
continued

Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

The CNS was honored to partner again with the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery for their 2025 Annual Meeting held in Memphis, TN, from December 4-7, 2025. The meeting, the Privilege to Inspire, welcomed 306 medical attendees and hosted 107 abstract presentations during the general sessions. Under the leadership of Section Chair, Richard Anderson and Annual Meeting Chair/ Local Host, Paul Klimo, the Scientific Program Committee presented two and a half days of plenary sessions. Featured keynote speakers included AC Wharton, Boo Mitchell, and Austin Dalgo. In addition to the scientific program, the Section hosted valuable networking events where many members connected with their colleagues.



2025 Joint Pediatric Section Annual Meeting
The PRIVILEGE to
Inspire.





STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with Organized Neurosurgery to Advance Neurosurgical Training and Patient Care
continued

Cerebrovascular Section



The CNS continues to manage the Section on Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery's administrative and Executive Committee business. This partnership has proven extremely valuable over recent years, helping the CNS better understand and anticipate the needs of cerebrovascular

surgeons, and ensuring that CV Section members and volunteers receive outstanding service and support.

In 2025, the CNS also partnered with the CV Section to deliver 3 webinars - Carotid Revascularization Techniques in the Modern Era on May 20, Venous Sinus Stenting for Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension on June 17 and How to get involved and succeed in clinical trials on August 12.

Neurosurgical Society Partnerships

In 2025, the CNS continued to extend its impact throughout neurosurgery by partnering with two key neurosurgical societies.

Society of Neurological Surgeons

The CNS was pleased to continue and expand its partnership with the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) in 2025, supporting the Society's administrative, membership, and digital operations while managing its core educational and professional development programs. SNS leadership and volunteers remained deeply engaged throughout the year, with 18 Committees and eight Subcommittees advancing the Society's mission across education, professionalism, advocacy, and research.

The CNS once again managed the SNS Annual Meeting, held May 16-18, 2025, and hosted by the Cleveland Clinic. The meeting welcomed 297 medical registrants and centered on the theme Reimagining Professionalism. The program explored the evolving expectations and responsibilities of neurosurgical leaders through a series of general sessions addressing Residency, Essentials, Leadership, Organization, Legacy, Change, Institution, Future,

Resilience, and Engagement. The meeting was supported by 89 volunteer faculty serving as course directors, speakers, and moderators, reflecting the Society's extraordinary commitment to peer-led education and dialogue.

The CNS also partnered with the Society to deliver a comprehensive suite of trainee programs across the continuum of neurosurgical education.

The **Junior Resident Course** was held virtually on Friday, March 28, 2025, and served 182 PGY-1 residents from 75 training programs. Designed for residents preparing to transition to PGY-2, the course featured sessions on Leadership Skills, Conflict Resolution and Effective Communication with a Chief Resident Panel; Healthcare Disparities; Disclosing Medical Errors and Risk Management; Intra- and Post-Operative Catastrophe Management; Life Hacks and Other Unsolicited Advice; Quality Improvement Project/Work Group; and How to Get Published. Thirteen faculty members volunteered their time and expertise to guide

participants through these foundational topics.

The **Intern Boot Camps** returned in full force as in-person regional programs, preparing essentially all incoming neurosurgical interns in ACGME-accredited programs for their first year of training. Courses were held July 11-12 in Portland at Oregon Health & Science University, July 18-19 in Houston at Baylor College of Medicine, and July 25-26 in Boston at Tufts Medical Center. A total of 275 PGY-1 residents participated (57 in Portland, 108 in Houston, and 110 in Boston), supported by 79 faculty members. Each two-day program combined small-group, case-based sessions on ICP Management/TBI, Spine Emergencies, Cranial Emergencies, Medical Emergencies, the Consent Process, and Difficult Conversations, followed by immersive hands-on training in craniotomy skills and bedside neurosurgical procedures.



**The Society of
Neurological Surgeons**



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with Organized Neurosurgery to Advance Neurosurgical Training and Patient Care
continued

Neurosurgical Society Partnerships

In 2025, the CNS continued to extend its impact throughout neurosurgery by partnering with two key neurosurgical societies.

The **Research Update in Neuroscience for Neurosurgeons (RUNN) Course** was held November 2-7, 2025, welcoming 90 PGY-3 and PGY-4 residents and 24 faculty members. RUNN continues to offer intensive exposure to cutting-edge neuroscience in an environment designed for total immersion in scientific discourse. The course introduces the latest concepts, hypotheses, and methods in neurobiology and neuroscience relevant to neurological surgery, presented by accomplished neuroscientists. Participants are guided in selecting research topics, identifying mentors, designing hypothesis-driven experiments, and writing grants, with the goal of stimulating sustained engagement in basic, translational, and clinical research.

The **Senior Resident Course** took place virtually on Saturday, November 22, 2025, serving 96 residents from 46 programs and supported by 10 faculty members. Targeted to senior-level trainees preparing for the transition to practice, the fast-paced program emphasized active learning and small-group discussion. Topics included

The Finances of Neurosurgical Practice; Leadership in Neurosurgery; Negotiating Your First Contract; Appropriate Billing and Coding in a Neurosurgical Practice; Managing Personal Finances; and Achieving Life Balance in Your First Job.

In addition to these core programs, the CNS supported two **SNS Medical Student Webinars** in 2025: the April 9 Medical Student Committee Webinar on Professionalism for Sub-Internship applicants in the 2025-2026 cycle, and the November 18 Medical Student Town Hall, extending the Society's educational reach to the earliest stages of the neurosurgical pipeline.

A significant organizational milestone continued to evolve in 2025 with the expansion of SNS Positional Membership. Following its introduction in 2024 for non-member Program Chairs and Program Directors of ACGME-accredited residency programs, the offering was broadened in 2025 to include one Associate Program Director applicant per institution. Positional Members hold all the duties and privileges

of Active Members during their term, with the exception of eligibility for elected office, strengthening engagement among current educational leaders while preserving the Society's governance structure.

About the SNS - Comprising U.S. academic department chairs, residency program directors, and other educational leaders, the SNS serves as the representative body for neurosurgery to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and plays a critical role in graduate and post-graduate education. The CNS is proud to support this work and to partner with the SNS in advancing education, professionalism, and leadership for neurosurgeons at every stage of their careers.

societytyns.org

American Academy of Neurological Surgery (AAcNS)

The CNS also had the privilege of partnering again with the American Academy of Neurological Surgery (AAcNS) in 2025, administering membership dues, managing the organization's website and abstract center, and providing CME for the 2025 Academy Meeting, October 22-25 in Athens, Greece.

The Academy focuses on promoting, sponsoring and mentoring laboratory, translational, and clinical research in the neurological sciences, and CNS's expertise in abstract management is sure to enhance their success over the course of the partnership.

americanacademyns.org



American Academy
of Neurological Surgery



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT



CNS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2024-2025)

APPOINTED/POSITIONAL

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Special Advisor (DEI), CNS Foundation;
Member-At-Large, CNS (2024-26)

David Crawford, CFA

Board Member, CNS Foundation

Regina Shupak

Ex-Officio Board Member, CNS Foundation;
CEO, CNS

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CSNS

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Spine Section

Laura Ngwenya, MD, FCNS

Trauma Section

Christopher Cifarelli, MD, FCNS

Tumor Section

Sarah Woodrow, MD, FCNS

WINS; Special Advisor (International
Philanthropy), CNS Foundation

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Corporate Advisor, Penumbra

James Marucci

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STAFF

Alicia Skulemowski

Director of Membership & Foundation
Operations, CNS

David Berg

Deputy Executive Director, CNS



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued



CHAIR MESSAGE:

Dear supporters of the CNS Foundation,

Since 2019, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Foundation has given more than \$3,000,000 of funding through grants, recognition, and educational opportunities for neurosurgeons around the world. That incredible milestone is only possible because of you—our donors—and the extraordinary work of our awardees. Together, you are shaping the future of neurosurgery and improving lives across the globe.

In 2025 alone, we gave back more than \$400,000 in awards and programs that truly help support the advancement, innovation and accessibility through our four established pillars:



CNS
Guidelines

Community, Culture
and Engagement

International
Philanthropy

Clinical Scientist
Career Development

The CNS Foundation Board expresses sincere appreciation to Medtronic, Stryker, Terumo Neuro, Emvia Healthcare Solutions, the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies, the Joint Section on Trauma and Critical Care, Dr. Khoi Than and Family, and our many generous donors, anonymous or individual, for making our programs possible. Please give your attention and thanks to the long list of our donors on pages 62. We also wish to thank the many volunteers and mentors who have had a hand in the CNS Foundation and its programs. Together, we are making profound contributions to neurosurgery and improving patient care around the world.

Join us in 2026 as we expand the impact and reach of our work, all of which is made possible by the generosity of our donors and supporters.

Sincerely,



Lola B. Chambless, MD, FCNS

CNS Foundation Chair

CNS Secretary



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

International Philanthropy Awards

OBSERVERSHIPS



Riju Dahal - International Brain Tumors Observership at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Milena Haile - International Brain Tumors Observership at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



John Emmanuel Torio - International Endovascular Observership at Harvard University / Beth Israel Deaconess



Mikael Aseged Shimekit - International Endovascular Observership at University of California, Davis



Mehari Wale Alem - International Endovascular Observership at University of Utah



Gemechu Tena - International Spine Observership at Duke University



Tomas Wessel - International Tumor Observership at University of Miami

VISITORSHIP



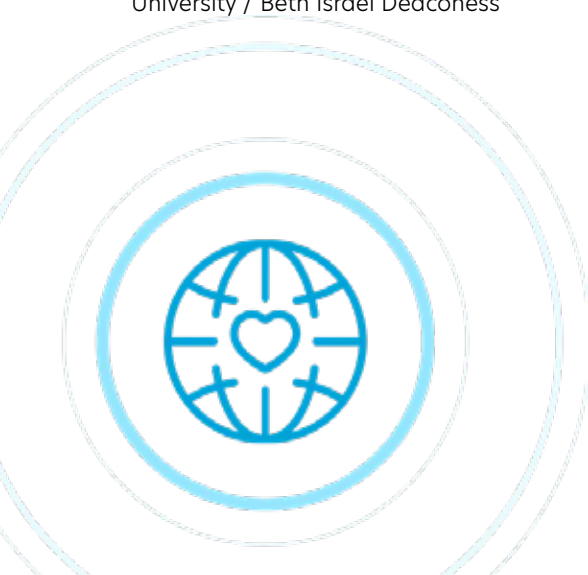
Florencia Rodriguez Basili - International Visitorship at Stanford University



Emanuel de Jesus Silva - International Visitorship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)



Kamga Jacquier Nkouli - International Visitorship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)





THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

Community, Culture and Engagement



Debraj Mukherjee

**IMPACT
AWARD**



Sonia Eden

**INNOVATION PILOT
PROJECT AWARD**



Julie L. Chan

**SCHOLAR AWARD ON
HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES**



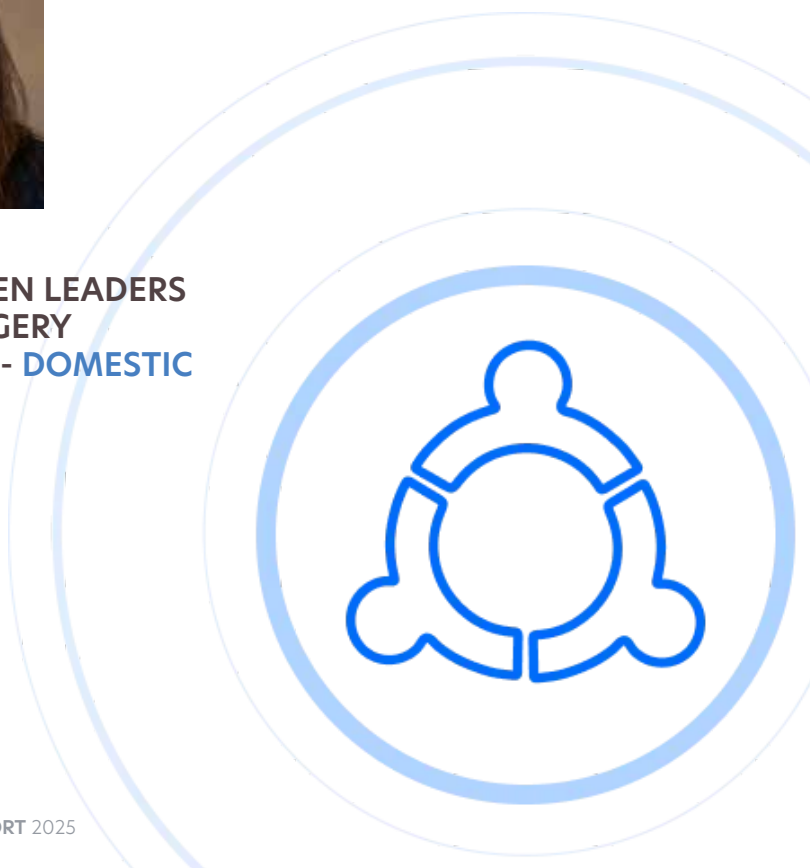
Amparo Saenz

**FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS
IN NEUROSURGERY
SCHOLARSHIP -
INTERNATIONAL**



Kristin Huntoon

**FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS
IN NEUROSURGERY
SCHOLARSHIP - DOMESTIC**





THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

Clinical Scientist Career Development



Matthew Pease

**CNSF SOPHYSA YOUNG
INVESTIGATOR AWARD**



Catherine Wang

**CNSF/ CSNS MEDICAL
STUDENT SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL
DETERMINATES OF CARE
RESEARCH**



Azeez Abdul

**CNSF/ CSNS MEDICAL
STUDENT SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP IN POLICY
RESEARCH**



Chiemela Izima

**CNSF/ CSNS MEDICAL
STUDENT SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP IN POLICY
RESEARCH**



Maria Suarez-Nieto

**CNSF/ CSNS MEDICAL
STUDENT SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP IN DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**





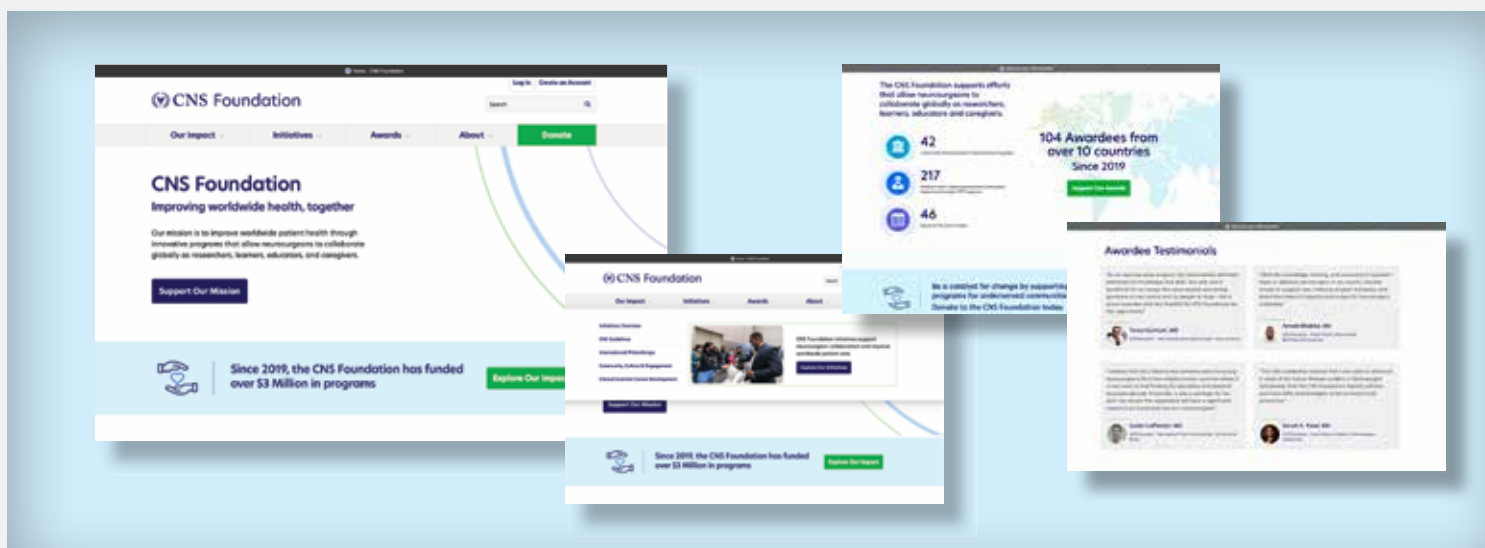
THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

2026 AWARDS CYCLE:

Applications for the 2026 awards cycle closed January 30, 2026.
Awardees will be announced later this year.

Thank you to all the donors who made these awards possible.



Here are the Awards that are part of the cycle:

International Endovascular
Observership at Harvard University/
Beth Israel Deaconess

International Endovascular
Observership at UC Davis

International Endovascular
Observership at University of Utah

International Neurotrauma
Visitorship at University of
Pittsburgh (UPMC)

International Spine Observership at
Duke University

International Tumor Observership at
University of Miami

Community, Culture and
Engagement Impact Award

Community, Culture and
Engagement Innovation Pilot
Project Award

Community, Culture and
Engagement Scholar Award on
Disparities in Healthcare Services

Future Women Leaders in
Neurosurgery Scholarship Domestic
Award

Future Women Leaders in
Neurosurgery Scholarship
International Award

Sophysa Young Investigator Award
(Spring and Fall)

For more information on awards and all CNS Foundation programs, please visit <https://foundation.cns.org>



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued



Lifetime Giving Circle

Join the CNS Foundation's Lifetime Giving Circle today! Support our mission and connect with fellow philanthropists. Donate today to support our mission and join your peers as part of this philanthropic cohort



VISIONARY CIRCLE
\$100,000 and above



LEGACY CIRCLE
\$75,000-\$99,999



INNOVATOR CIRCLE
\$50,000- \$74,999



TRAILBLAZER CIRCLE
\$25,000 - \$49,000



CHAMPION CIRCLE
\$10,000- \$24,999



ALLY CIRCLE
\$5,000- \$9,999

CNS Foundation Annual Giving Levels

DIAMOND - \$10,000+
PLATINUM - \$2,500 - \$9,999

GOLD - \$1,000 - \$2,499
SILVER - \$500 - \$999

BRONZE - \$250 - \$499
FRIEND OF FOUNDATION - up to \$249

Thank you to all our generous donors in 2025. Your support is truly appreciated!



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

The CNS Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to all our 2025 donors:

PLATINUM

Ellen Air
Christopher Cifarelli
David Crawford
David Dornbos
Brian Nahed
Nader Pouratian
Khoi Than

GOLD

Rushna Ali
James Arthur
Ashok Asthagiri
Garni Barkhoudarian
Sharona Ben-Haim
Mohamad Bydon
Bennie Chiles
Isabelle Germano
Daniel Hoh
Peter Nakaji
Edjah Nduom
Eric Oermann
Katie Orrico
Jeremy Phelps
Karl Schmitt
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Marjorie Wang
Ronald Warnick
Sarah Woodrow

SILVER

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Bryan Buster
Daniel Carr
Lola Chambless
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Arnett Klugh
Nicolas Phan
Reza Ramazankhani
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Michael Staudt
D. Roxanne Todor
Kunal Vakharia
Lucia Zamorano

BRONZE

Nitin Agarwal
Nick Bajema
Ulrich Batzdorf
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Andres Camilo Guarín Fernández
Ernesto Gutierrez
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Jesús Carlos Herrera-Pacheco
Michele Hilgart
Namath Hussain
Randall Johnson



THE CNS FOUNDATION REPORT

continued

The CNS Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to all our 2025 donors:

continued

Tsutomu Kadekaru
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Alex Valadka
Dieter Weinert
Timothy West
Daniel White
Theresa Williamson
Dennis Winters
Chris Zacko
Laura Zima
Eduard Zverina



CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In 2025, the **CNS Corporate Development** initiatives concentrated on fostering partnerships with organizations across all neurosurgical specialties. Through a comprehensive benefits program tailored to address the needs of our partners, we enabled them to support the extensive educational offerings provided by CNS throughout the year. This continued commitment to cultivating strong relationships resulted in another year of remarkable success.

We would like to thank the following companies for their support of the 2025 Non-Annual Meeting Activities.

In-Person Courses

- **Tumor Complications Course:** GammaTile (GT Medical), Carl Zeiss Meditec Inc., Integra Lifesciences, Stryker
- **Spine Complications Course:** ATEC Spine, Cerapedics, Globus Medical, Induce Biologics, DePuy Synthes, Osteocentric Technologies, SI-BONE, Smart Step Surgical, Enovis
- **Skull Base Fellows Course:** Aesculap, American Surgical, Carl Zeiss Meditec Inc., Integra Lifesciences, Life Instruments, KLS Martin, Medtronic, Mizuho, Karl Storz, Stryker
- **Leadership Institute:** Medtronic and Stryker

Virtual Courses, Sessions, and other Online Education

- **Neurosurgical Emergencies Course:** Integra Lifesciences, Medtronic, Phasor Health, Siemens Healthineers, Sophysa
- **Artificial Intelligence in Neurosurgery:** Medtronic and Stryker
- **Podcasts:** Stryker
- **Nexus:** Stryker and Terumo Neuro



Annual Meeting Supporters: Medtronic, Stryker, Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices, Aesculap, GammaTile, Siemens Healthineers, Globus Medical, Penumbra, AstraZeneca, Cerapedics, Servier Pharmaceuticals, icotec, Medical, Inc., GE Healthcare, Mizuho America, Brainlab, MiMedx Group, Abbott, MicroTransponder, Leica Microsystems, Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc., Integra LifeSciences, Phasor Health LLC, Longevity, NSK America, Avatar Medical, Carlsmed, Inc., SI-BONE, Monteris Medical, Medical Microinstruments, Inc., Koh Young Technology, RosmanSearch, Olympus America Inc., ClearPoint Neuro, Highridge Medical, PMT Corporations, Sophysa, Imperative Care, Acuity Surgical, Surgical Theater, KLS Martin Group, Karl Storz Endoscopy, Remedy Robotics, CereVasc, Inc., Terumo Neuro, Kiyatec, Zimmer Biomet, American Surgical, Enovis, Q'Apel, IRRAS, ATEC, RapidAI, Ebi, Induce Biologics, OsteoCentric Technologies, Ace Medical, Apella Technology, Boston Scientific, Insightec, WellWithAll, Life Instruments, Natus Neuro, DIXI Medical, JHilburn, M.M. LaFleur, Kaneka Medical America, Curiteva, FIGS, Raumedica, Smart Step Surgical, The Meadows on Rock Creek, LadySpineDoc, Viseon, o8t, Modulight

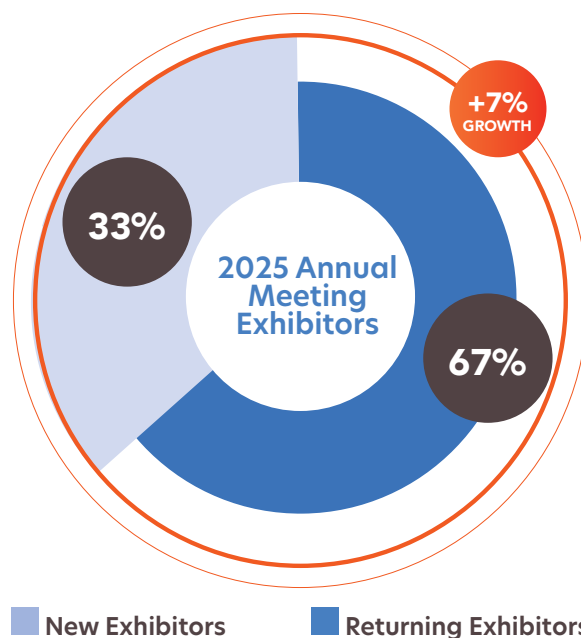
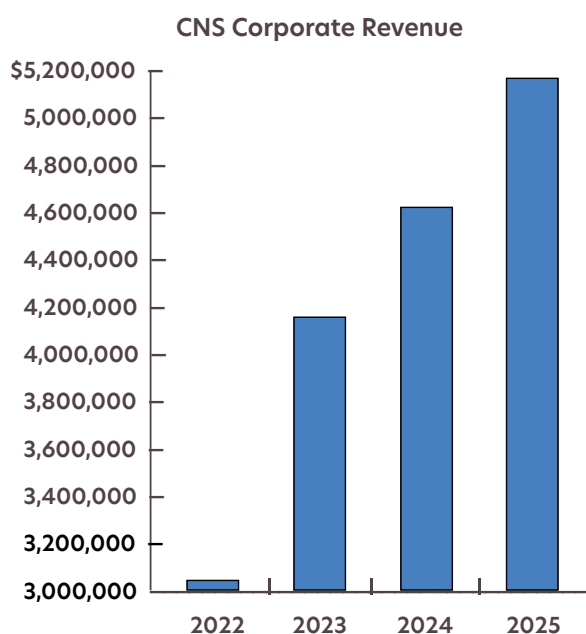


CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

continued

A total of 64 companies supported the CNS programs and products in 2025!

We continue to be both proud and grateful for the collaboration with companies in the field. Our partnerships allow the CNS to provide products and solutions that help achieve our mission of enhancing health and improving lives through innovative neurosurgical education, advancement of clinical practice and scientific exchange.



Garni Barkhoudarian, MD, FCNS
Chair



Sharona Ben-Haim, MD, FCNS
Co-Vice Chair



Jeffrey P. Mullin, MD, FCNS
Co-Vice Chair



David Dornbos, MD, FCNS
Member



Kunal Vakharia, MD, FCNS
Member



Elad I. Levy, MD, FCNS
Senior Advisor



Nader Pouratian, MD, FCNS
Senior Advisor

Thank You

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons gratefully acknowledges our Industry Allies Council partners for their continued support.



CNS

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stryker

PREMIER PARTNERS

Johnson & Johnson MedTech

PARTNERS



COLLABORATORS



ALT Ventures



ASSOCIATES



CNS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025

2025 Assets

	Current	Prior Year	Increase/ (Decrease)
CNS Cash	3,689,948	1,375,154	2,314,794
Accounts Receivable	523,458	288,699	234,759
Pre-Paid Expenses & Deposits	738,734	588,467	150,267
Beneficial Interest	401,000	401,000	0
Investments	30,623,165	27,677,426	2,945,739
Equipment & Software	971,689	1,201,896	(230,207)
Other Assets	632,793	707,628	(74,835)
Net Receivable - Foundation	14,232	16,249	(2,017)
Joint Section Assets (Net)	5,565,551	5,565,553	(2)

Total Assets	43,160,570	37,822,072	5,338,498
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2025 Liabilities

Accounts Payables	801,738	161,074	640,664
Capital Lease	1,035,776	1,150,629	(114,853)
Accrued Expenses	935,891	1,161,741	(225,850)
Deferred Revenue-Dues	1,822,245	1,747,704	74,541
Deferred Revenue-Annual Meeting	190,700	222,700	(32,000)
Deferred Revenue-Journal	2,459,625	1,142,858	1,316,767
Deferred Revenue-Other	653,178	100,935	552,243

Total Liabilities	7,899,153	5,687,641	2,211,512
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Net Assets

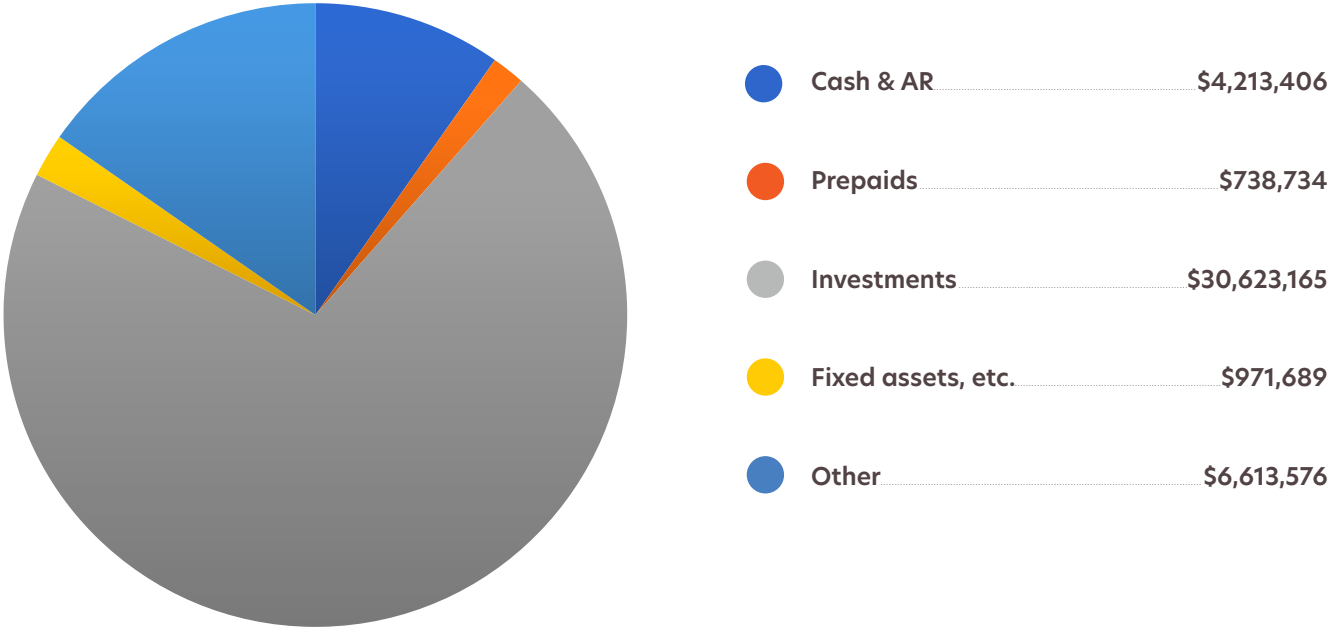
Unrestricted	34,860,417	31,733,431	3,126,986
Permanently Restricted	401,000	401,000	0

Total Net Assets	35,261,417	32,134,431	3,126,986
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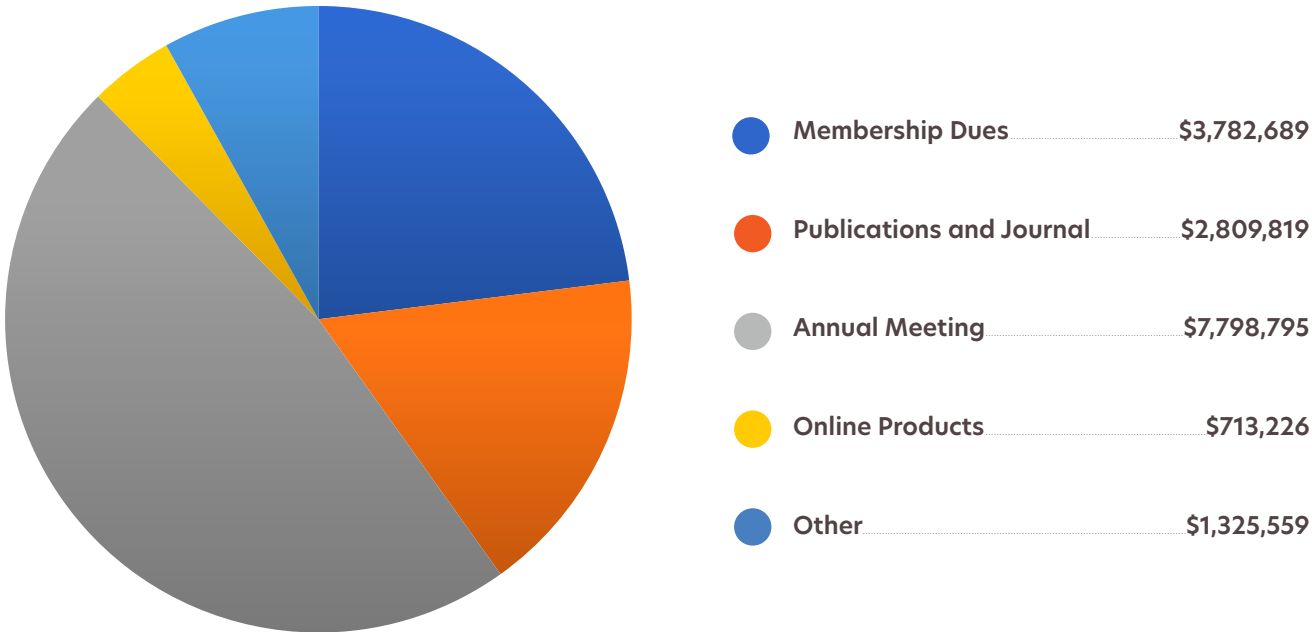
Total Assets	43,160,570	37,822,072	5,338,498
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 CNS
FINANCIAL REPORT
continued

Assets as of December 31, 2025



FY25 Revenue





2026 PRESIDENT



Martina Stippler, MD, FCNS

2026 President

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

I am deeply honored to serve as the Congress of Neurological Surgeons President in the year ahead. My predecessor, Dr. Daniel Hoh, strengthened the CNS community in 2025 and focused on our core strengths: community, wellness, innovation, and leadership development. Congratulations, Dan, on an outstanding meeting and very successful year!

With the 2025 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, the CNS celebrated its 75th anniversary. Annual Meeting Chair Edjah Nduom, Scientific Program Chair Khoi Than, and Vice Chair Akash Patel built a vibrant program that emphasized connection and collaboration. Congratulations to this team and to the dozens of Annual Meeting Committee members whose dedication made this milestone meeting such a success.

I also want to recognize the volunteer chairs of our many CNS Standing Committees and the members of the CNS Executive Committee who invested tremendous time and energy this past year to advance our educational programs, member benefits, and courses. Your focus on neurosurgical education to advance neurosurgical practice; scientific exchange to find the cures of tomorrow; as well as community, leadership, and career development, was evident in the exceptional engagement and feedback from our members.

As a Past Chair of the CNS Foundation, I am incredibly proud of what Foundation Chair Lola Chambless accomplished last year—awarding more than \$400,000 in grants and programs that will have a lasting impact on the careers of our neurosurgeon awardees, their patients, and our field.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am excited about the future of our organization and the opportunity to build upon this strong foundation. During my presidency, I want to emphasize creating a true sense of belonging and connection across our diverse membership, ensuring that every member feels valued and engaged within the CNS community. I am also committed to enhancing and deepening the learning experience to foster the joy of lifelong learning—not only at our Annual Meeting, but throughout the year and across all career stages.

An important example of this commitment is the continued expansion of the CNS Innovation Institute, providing meaningful opportunities for members interested in neurosurgical innovation, digital health, and artificial intelligence. By embracing these emerging areas, we can help shape the future of neurosurgical care and education.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated CNS staff. I am especially grateful for the support of our CEO, Regina Shupak, whose experience and leadership are central to our continued growth and success. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our corporate partners for their ongoing support of the CNS.

I want to express a special thank you to our talented and dedicated volunteers. In 2025, more than 1,000 of you helped shape neurosurgery education and participated in the scientific exchange at our annual meeting and beyond. I know there are a lot of demands on your time, and we cannot thank you enough for choosing to share your time and talent with the CNS. Your contributions are shaping the future of neurosurgery.

Finally, I want to thank all CNS members. You are the essence of the organization. As your president—and together with the CNS EC members, our CEO Regina Shupak, and the CNS staff—we are working tirelessly to bring to you innovation, education, and most importantly, connections. Thank you for being a member and don't forget to show it off proudly with your CNS Fellow designation; we don't take you for granted.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to welcoming you all to the CNS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., this fall, to celebrate the evolution of neurosurgery.

Sincerely,

Martina Stippler, MD, FCNS

President, Congress of Neurological Surgeons



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Regina Shupak

CEO, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

This year marked another deeply meaningful chapter in my service as CEO of this extraordinary organization. It continues to be a true honor and privilege to serve the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and our members each day, and I am proud to share these 2025 highlights with you.

None of what we accomplished this year would have been possible without the leadership of our 2025 CNS President, Daniel Hoh, MD, FCNS, and the dedication of our Officers and Executive Committee. Dr. Hoh's thoughtful vision, collaborative spirit, and steady guidance shaped our work throughout the year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with him and the entire leadership team. Together, we advanced the mission of the CNS in meaningful and lasting ways.

2025 was a year of momentum, growth, and engagement across every corner of

the organization. Once again, we achieved record membership, surpassing 12,000 members—a powerful reflection of the value neurosurgeons around the world place in the CNS community.

We introduced a new CNS Affinity Program designed to support members in their professional lives beyond education. Launching with M&S Leadership Solutions, Rollins Resilience Group, Callagy Revenue Recovery, Resolve, and Rosman Search, this program provides members with practical discounts and resources tied directly to neurosurgical practice and career development.

Our partnerships continued to thrive. We engaged with 64 companies through the Industry Allies Council, working collaboratively to expand and enhance educational offerings across the organization. I am sincerely grateful to our Corporate Supporters—and especially to the members of the Industry Allies Council—whose commitment to the CNS is essential to advancing our educational mission.

We strengthened our digital presence through website improvements and a more deliberate, strategic approach to content. As a result, we welcomed more than 11,000 new followers across our social media platforms, expanding the reach and visibility of CNS programs, publications, and thought leadership.

In 2025, we increased our Guidelines production capacity through strategic use of technology and published four new guidelines, ensuring timely, high-quality, evidence-based resources for our members. Within Neurosurgery Publications, we transitioned the Editorial Office to a fully outsourced production model, improving cost efficiency while also increasing year-end submissions across all titles—an important step in positioning our portfolio for sustained growth.

Education remained at the heart of everything we do. We expanded our catalog with new podcast series, town halls, and innovative learning formats, while welcoming more than 500 participants to live and virtual courses throughout the year. Under the Leadership Institute umbrella, we launched the new Executive Leadership in Healthcare course, reaching new audiences and offering continued development for graduates of prior Leadership Institute programs.

And once again, our Annual Meeting exceeded expectations, setting records for attendance, abstract submissions, and corporate support. It was a powerful demonstration of the CNS's impact and the extraordinary commitment of our members and volunteer faculty.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our professional staff and to the neurosurgeon volunteers whose time, expertise, and passion make all of this possible. Your dedication is the foundation of everything we achieve.

Looking ahead, I am excited to work with our incoming President, Dr. Martina Stippler, whose leadership, insight, and energy will guide us into another year of progress and opportunity. The future of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons is bright, and I am honored to continue serving this remarkable community.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me and the CNS Officers with your ideas and suggestions as we move forward together.



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