

Chair's Message: Your Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care

Jamie S. Ullman, MD, FAANS



This year marks the biennial change in leadership of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care. In the recent

elections, Daniel Michael, MD, PhD, FAANS, has been named as Chair-Elect; Julian Bailes, MD, FAANS, as Secretary/Treasurer; and Sharon Webb, MD, FAANS; and Rocco Armonda, MD, FAANS, as Members-At-Large. All have a history of excellent service to the Section. Martina Stippler, MD, FAANS, is our Membership Chair, and we are pleased to announce the creation of a new medical student membership category in the hopes of attracting students with a strong interest in neurosurgery and helping them achieve their career goals.

The Section recently held a pre-meeting symposium in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society (NNS) in San Francisco. The symposium attracted more than 100 attendees to hear a program emphasizing clinical topics and translational research. Next year, the meeting will be held in Santa Fe, N.M., on June 28, 2015, with an emphasis on cerebral and spinal trauma. The National Neurotrauma Society Meeting will offer a wide variety of topics. We encourage all Section members to attend. CME is offered for the entire meeting; it's a great way to obtain all-important trauma education credits. Conceivably, this combined Section/NNS meeting can provide all of the necessary annual CME requirements for members practicing at American College of Surgeons-verified trauma centers.

Our Section continues to strive towards placing neurosurgery at the forefront of concussion education and management. Thanks to Dr. Bailes, the AANS and CNS has endorsed the NCAA consensus documents on return-to-learn-and-play for concussed athletes, as well as their guidelines for athletic practice geared toward minimizing exposure to concussion. The ThinkFirst Foundation has also developed education tools geared toward concussion recognition and management. The Section continues to contribute to ThinkFirst, helping to enhance the organization's ongoing efforts in youth injury prevention.

We have added a new international committee with prospects for assisting neurotrauma management and systems projects in India and South America. Other active committees include Guidelines, Head Injury, Spine Injury, Publications/Website, and Sports Injury. Also, new to the Section is the Rapid Response Committee, which will assist the Joint Washington Committee in preparing responses to new trauma-related legislative and other issues requiring commentary by organized neurosurgery. The Section has liaisons from various important organizations, Sections and committees that help to convey important information and promote collaboration. Such relationships exist with the Neurocritical Care Society, Brain Trauma Foundation, AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerve, the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section, the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies and the above-mentioned ThinkFirst Foundation.

The Education Committee, chaired by David Okonkwo, MD, PhD, FAANS, is the largest committee, and it is responsible for developing education content for our symposia and Section sessions. The Education Committee also

continued on page 3

In This Issue...

2

Come and get your 16 ACS-required neurotrauma CME in beautiful Santa Fe!

3

Update on the Brain Trauma Foundation's

4

Guidelines for the Management of Traumatic Brain Injury Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Sponsorships

5

Section Update

Come and get your 16 ACS-required neurotrauma CME in beautiful Santa Fe!

2015 AANS/CNS National Neurotrauma Symposium Joint Meeting

June 28-July 1, 2015

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Scientific Sessions: Santa Fe Convention Center

The American College of Surgeons now requires 16 dedicated trauma CME for all neurosurgeons covering Level I trauma centers. In addition, there is a publication requirement for accreditation of trauma centers. The National Neurotrauma Symposium proudly joins with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Joint Section of Neurotrauma and Critical Care to provide an opportunity for up to 35 trauma CME in Santa Fe in June 2015. In response to overwhelming membership requests, we will have highly clinically relevant talks evenly divided between spine and brain.

Featured topics:

- Surgical strategies for occipito cervical and atlanto-axial trauma
- Minimally invasive techniques for the unstable spine
- Lateral approaches to spine trauma
- Endovascular vs. open vascular procedures in neck and cranial trauma
- Controversies in intra vs. extracranial monitoring of brain injury
- Outcomes after hemispherectomy and other cranial procedures
- The relationship between tau and dementia

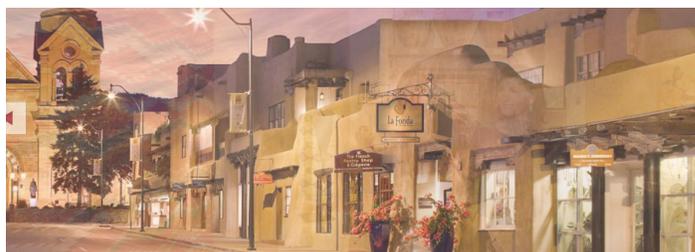
For the complete program, please visit:

<http://www.nationalneurotraumasociety.org/symposium/scientific-program/>.

But that is not all! Submit your abstract to present your own clinical research that will appear in the June 2015 *Journal of Neurotrauma* (pending review and acceptance). To encourage clinical topics, we are delighted to announce the **Ethicon AANS/CNS Clinical Neurotrauma Research Awards**, which will be awarded for the first time at the 2015 Santa Fe meeting.

The purpose of this award is to encourage presentation of high-quality clinical research at the National Neurotrauma Society Meeting.

Eligibility: Two awards will be offered at the 2015 National Neurotrauma Society Meeting for clinical research presented by a medical student, resident, fellow or early-career attending within



AANS/CNS Section On
**NEUROTRAUMA &
CRITICAL CARE**



American
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three years of completion of their residency. The recipient must be a member of either the AANS or CNS. If the recipient is a medical student, resident or fellow, their research mentor must also be a member of either the AANS or CNS. The \$1,000 cash awards will honor outstanding abstracts presented as either oral posters or exhibited posters at the meeting judged on the basis of scientific merit, clinical relevance and innovation. One award will be given for cranial trauma and one for either spine or peripheral nerve trauma; however, the judges reserve the right to issue both awards in either category.

Abstract submission opens Jan. 1, 2015, and ends April 1, 2015. All abstracts selected for presentation (either oral or poster) will be published in the *Journal of Neurotrauma* June 2015 edition. Judging will occur during the meeting, and awards will be presented at the meeting's Awards Ceremony.

Santa Fe is a fabulous family destination with spa and water park hotels.

We hope to see you there.

[Click here to register.](#)

The AANS/CNS Joint section of Neurotrauma and Critical Care committee

Update on the Brain Trauma Foundation's Guidelines for the Management of Traumatic Brain Injury

Since 1995, the Brain Trauma Foundation's (BTF) *Guidelines for the Management of Traumatic Brain Injury* have been a pillar of our profession. Though many areas of traumatic brain injury (TBI) care are remarkably uninformed by evidence, the BTF Guidelines have garnered great respect for how well they compile what evidence is available. They are respected as being methodologically sound, and compliance with their recommendations has been repeatedly proven to improve outcomes. The BTF Guidelines are accessible online at <https://www.braintrauma.org/coma-guidelines/searchable-guidelines/>. Multiple guidelines are available including those for:

- Pre-hospital management
- Surgical management
- Pediatric TBI management
- Adult TBI management
- Combat TBI management
- Early indicators of prognosis

The *Adult Management Guidelines* are perhaps the best known of the BTF's efforts. The current, third edition of the guidelines was published in 2007. A multi-disciplinary guidelines committee was convened in San Jose in February — on the steps of the BTF's new home at Stanford University — for an in-person discussion of the evidence pertaining to the topics and recommendations for the fourth edition.

Although early signs are that the 4th edition guidelines will largely respect their history, there are several changes coming. First, the Brain Trauma Foundation is setting a higher bar with respect to evidence. Class III evidence will be excluded, and Class I evidence won't necessarily lead to a Level I recommendation. Second, some topics have been dropped (largely those pertaining to general and not TBI-specific care), and some have been added. Decompressive

craniectomy, for instance, has been added to these guidelines — it had previously appeared in the surgical guidelines. Third, the BTF is intent on making this the last formally published edition. They intend to transition to 'living guidelines' that are updated promptly after relevant literature is published.

The guidelines committee extensively debated all topics, especially those likely to be controversial, such as decompressive craniectomy and ICP monitoring. These recommendations will undoubtedly be controversial no matter what, but readers can rest assured that a large number of people have carefully reviewed the literature and have tried very hard to craft the most appropriate recommendations that follow the available evidence and its strength.

It was very disappointing to learn that these BTF guidelines will be the last to be headed by Nancy Carney. For two decades, Nancy has successfully navigated the strong personalities, opinions and controversies that are invariably a part of important medical guidelines. She has consistently succeeded in producing respected documents that have been ahead of the curve and a template for other guidelines efforts to follow. The medical profession — and TBI patients in particular — owe Nancy a tremendous debt of gratitude. Her shoes are big ones to fill, indeed!

A draft of the new guidelines has recently been produced. It will undergo extensive internal and external reviews; publication in 2015 is anticipated.



Gregory Hawryluk, MD, PhD, FAANS
Assistant Professor,
Director of Neurosurgical Critical Care,
University of Utah,
Department of Neurosurgery

Chairman *continued from page 1*

works closely with the Awards Committee, chaired by Eve Tsai, MD, PhD, FAANS, supervising the selection of various awards and lectureships. The Section sponsors five resident awards per year. The Depuy Synthes Award for craniofacial and spinal injury research is given semi-annually in conjunction with the AANS and CNS meetings. The Annual Codman Resident Research Fellowship award is a competitive awards program that supports the recipient's neurotrauma research for one year. The recipient presents the result of his or her research at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting the following year. The newest Section awards will be given to two outstanding abstracts presented at the National Neurotrauma Society Annual Meeting mentioned above. Eligible recipients are medical students, residents and junior faculty within three years of completing training. Further details are highlighted in this newsletter. The Section is proud to support young investigators in their performance of innovative research.

Various lectureships have been established in the last several

years. These lectureships include the newly initiated Charles Tator Honorary Lectureship in Spinal Cord Injury, the J Douglas Miller Memorial Lectureship and the Anthony Marmarou Memorial Lectureship. Dr. Nino Stochetti was this year's Anthony Marmarou Lecturer, who paid tribute to Dr. Marmarou's long and distinguished career.

The Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care strives to respond to the needs of our members. This newsletter will help to highlight some important initiatives. Included is a list of the Section committees and liaisons. We welcome any Section member and future leaders who wish to volunteer for any of the committees.

As we look towards 2015, it is important for us to be introspective about neurosurgery's role in neurotrauma and critical care. We need to take a clear public stand on maintaining our primary involvement in the basic tenets of our discipline: the surgical and medical management of patients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Sponsorships

The Joint section of American AANS/CNS of Neurotrauma and Critical Care has been involved in education since it began. We would like to highlight some of the fellowship awards and grants available through the section to encourage Neurotrauma research. Our section is also working on bringing nationally and internationally recognized lectures to the AANS and CNS annual meetings in the form of Charles Tator, J. Douglas Miller and Anthony Marmarou Honorary Lectureships. These lectures are the highlight of the Neurotrauma section program at each meeting and have been filled by distinguished speakers, such as Sir Graham Teasdale.



American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Research Fellowship Award (Currently the Codman Research Award in Neurotrauma and Critical Care)

Codman has established an annual grant/stipend of \$40,000 to support a fellowship in the area of basic or applied clinical research in the field of neurotrauma and/or critical care. The grant is competitively awarded to a neurosurgery resident in training, or within two years of finishing training, from an accredited North American program and is intended to support a research proposal that can be accomplished in a one-year time frame.

The fellowship may be undertaken at any North American or European center with an established reputation in either clinical or basic research for head injury, spinal cord injury or the important issues in critical care pertinent thereto. The fellowship is not intended to support advanced clinical training in these areas.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Award for Resident Research in Spinal Cord Injury (Currently the Depuy/Synthes Award for Resident Research in Spinal Cord Injury)

The Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section presents the Award for Resident Research in Spinal Cord Injury at each of the AANS and CNS annual meetings. The award is given to the highest-scored abstract submitted by a resident in neurosurgical training in the field of spinal cord or spinal column trauma. The recipient gives an oral presentation during the Section Forum and receives \$2,000, of which \$1,000 goes the winning abstract's laboratory.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Award for Resident Research in Craniofacial Injury (Currently the Depuy/Synthes Award for Resident Research in Craniofacial Injury)

The Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section presents the Award for Resident Research in Craniofacial Injury at each of the AANS and CNS annual meetings. The award is given to the highest-scored abstract submitted by a resident in neurosurgical training in the field of craniofacial trauma or traumatic brain injury. The recipient gives an oral presentation during the Section Forum and receives \$2,000, of which \$1,000 goes the winning abstract's laboratory.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Charles Tator Honorary Lectureship

This is a sponsored lectureship at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting for an outstanding individual who has made significant career contributions to the field of spinal cord injury. The award includes an honorarium, framed certificate and travel expenses. Sponsorship will be announced on the invitation, during the platform presentation, and recognized on a placard prominently displayed in the hall and entry. Sponsoring organizations are invited to send representatives to the lecture.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section J. Douglas Miller Honorary Lectureship

This is a sponsored lectureship at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting for an outstanding individual who has made significant career contributions to the field of traumatic brain injury. The award includes an honorarium, framed certificate and travel expenses. Sponsorship will be announced on the invitation, during the platform presentation, and recognized on a placard prominently displayed in the hall and entry. Sponsoring organizations are invited to send representatives to the lecture.

Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section Anthony Marmarou Honorary Lectureship

This is a sponsored lectureship at the CNS Annual Meeting for an outstanding individual who has made significant career contributions to the field of traumatic brain injury. The award includes an honorarium, framed certificate and travel expenses. Sponsorship will be announced on the invitation, during the platform presentation, and recognized on a placard prominently displayed in the hall and entry. Sponsoring organizations are invited to send representatives to the lecture.

Section Updates

Sports Injury Update

Organized neurosurgery is participating with numerous other national medical and sports governing organizations to endorse consensus statements to improve safety in collegiate sports. The NCAA and the College Athletic Trainers' Society organized the Safety in College Football Summit, which has produced documents addressing football practice contact guidelines, independent medical care in the collegiate setting, and concussion diagnosis and management.

Julian Bailes, MD, FAANS



Education update

Codman 2015/16 Award Application Instructions & Research Fellowship Agreement

Codman has established an annual grant/stipend of \$40,000 to support a fellowship in the area of basic or applied clinical research in the field of neurotrauma and/or critical care. The application is due Jan. 31, 2015, and should be submitted to Eve Tsai, MD, PhD, FAANS, at etsai@ottawahospital.on.ca.

Ethicon AANS/CNS Clinical Neurotrauma Research Awards

The purpose of this award is to encourage presentation of high quality clinical research at the National Neurotrauma Society Meeting. The next meeting is planned in June 28 - July 1, 2015, in Santa Fe, N.M. Logistics: Abstract submission opens Jan. 1, 2015, and ends April 1, 2015. Abstracts selected for presentation (either oral or poster) will be published in the Journal of Neurotrauma June 2015 edition. Judging will occur during the meeting, and awards will be presented at the meeting's Awards Ceremony.

Eve Tsai, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Uzma Samadanie, MD



Think First update

ThinkFirst had a great year and successfully gave more than 6,000 free presentations on injury prevention across the United States, due to the perseverance and dedication of Executive Director Debby Gerhardtstein and Chairman of the ThinkFirst Board of Directors (BOD), Nicholas Theodore, MD, FAANS. Highlights of FY 2013 included Helmets on Heads events with Schwinn in November and the US Airways Do-team, helping to helmet 250 students at a Phoenix after-school program. Additionally, we have more than 39 international chapters actively engaged in providing injury prevention programs through the world. Most remarkably, Tracy O'Connor was one of 10 people chosen from more than 300 applicants to be named a 2013 Bakken Foundation honoree (Earl Bakken, co-founder, Medtronic). Because she named the ThinkFirst Foundation as her charity of choice, The



Medtronic Foundation donated \$20,000 to ThinkFirst in her honor. Mrs. O'Connor has been a ThinkFirst VIP speaker (Voices for Injury Prevention) over the past 17 years, talking with students about preventing spinal cord injuries, such as the one she incurred when she was an unbuckled passenger and her driver, who had been drinking, fell asleep at the wheel.

We expect great things in the future. We are currently revising the ThinkFirst For Kids curriculum. Fall prevention, parent involvement and concussion programs are in progress. We continue to have very skilled and committed chapter directors that volunteer countless hours to these and other ThinkFirst Foundation projects. The entirety of the ThinkFirst BOD donates to the cause. The Joint Section of Neurotrauma and Critical Care (JSNTCC) continues to be one of our largest supporters. An open house was held at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) on April 7, 2014, to get the word out to neurosurgeons. The first 100 attendees received a free bicycle helmet. FY14 goals are centered on fundraising, chapter and board development, and program development. On behalf of ThinkFirst, we thank all JSNTCC members for support of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation and our mission to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injury through education, research and advocacy. Please visit our website at www.thinkfirst.org to find more information, to volunteer or to donate.

Julie G. Pilitsis, MD, PhD, FAANS

Think First Board of Directors

Liaison to JSNTCC

Update on CSNS Initiatives

The main Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) initiatives I wanted to bring up for the section newsletter are as follows:

- 1) As a result of a resolution passed at the Spring 2012 CSNS meeting, a survey was sent to all AANS members in North America asking about the impact of closed ICUs on their practices; this included program directors as well as community practitioners. The results were striking, and will be the subject of an upcoming AANS Neurosurgeon article. In short, roughly 10 percent of training programs have been affected, and 50 percent of all neurosurgeons practicing in the community! Armed with these numbers, Robert Harbaugh, MD, FAANS, and others recently met with leaders of the Leapfrog group, asking that they include neurosurgeons in the list of those competent to care for neurologically injured patients in the ICU, and they have indicated that they will adjust their staffing recommendations accordingly. In order to care for all patients in an ICU or direct an ICU, additional training would be necessary through the SNS-sponsored CAST system. The hope of all involved is that this will no longer be an issue in the coming year.
- 2) A resolution passed at the fall meeting this year calls for a in-



investigation and report back about the effects that the emphasis on neurosurgical resident sub-specialization might have on general neurosurgical needs within the community; the resolution was based on concerns that manpower issues may arise from the recent upswing in enfolded and post-residency fellowships beyond standard training. Any thoughts or information about this subject, which will by definition be more of a forecast than a review of hard data, should be directed to Adair Prall, MD, FAANS (ap1964@comcast.net); or Brian Nahed, MD (bnahed@partners.org). A report back to the CSNS will be forthcoming in the next year.

- 3) A resolution passed at the fall meeting asking for a page on the CSNS website to serve as a repository for any and all quality improvement projects accomplished by CSNS members (and others). This would be a socioeconomic resource for any neurosurgeon who wishes to explore a given subject area (trauma/critical care, as well as all other areas) for QI efforts that have previously been accomplished, in order to make these improvements easier, and perhaps more standardized, throughout the country.

Adair Prall, MD, FAANS

Newsletter and Website Update

Please visit our website. You can access the Brain Trauma Foundation guidelines and learn about TBI grants and upcoming meetings. We also feature interesting papers on our homepage. New

this fall is the ability to pay your committee dues online; the link for this will be in the members section. The webpage is also a good way learn more about our committee. Please contact us with questions, suggestions or concerns on how we can improve TBI care.

Martina Stippler, MD, FAANS



Membership Chair Update

Currently our section has 2,420 members. Of those 212 are lifetime members and 650 active members, of which 77 are international. We welcome new members to our group. We conducted a membership survey this summer. It shows that most of our members would welcome a combined Neurotrauma Section meeting with the Neurotrauma Society. The first such meeting was held in summer this year. Our members also expressed a strong desire to have a strong clinically oriented program at this meeting. Talking over as membership chair, it is important to me to make your contribution and participation in our section worthwhile for you. The survey helped us find out what most of our members would find most valuable. With an emphasis on evidence-based medicine, the survey made evident that a quarterly update on guidelines development, committee updates and distribution of practice changing papers would be most welcome by our membership. We will use our website as forum to bring this information to you. Currently on our website there is a direct link to 2007 TBI guidelines.

Martina Stippler, MD, FAANS

AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care Committees 2014-2016

Current Officers

Chair: Jamie Ullman (2014-16)

Chair-Elect: Daniel Michael (2014-16)

Secretary/Treasurer: Julian Bailes (2014-16)

Past Chair: Geoffrey Manley (2014-16)

Members-At-Large: Sharon Webb, Rocco Armonda (2014-16)

Committee Chairs (2014-2016)

Senior Advisor: Michael Fehlings

Membership Committee: Martina Stippler

Education Committee: David Okonkwo

Scientific Program Subcommittee (NNS): Uzma Samadani

Members: Daniel Lu, Jack Jallo, Jason Huang

Annual Meetings Subcommittee: Craig Rabb

CNS Education Division Liaisons Subcommittee (including CNSU Editorial Board): Odette Harris

Members: Roland Torres (SANS/Neurosurgery Watch), Sharon Webb, Maya Babu, Chris Zacko, Martina Stippler, Patricia Raksin.

Awards Committee: Eve Tsai

Members: Officers, Sharon Webb

Publication/Website Committee: Martina Stippler; Roland Torres (Vice Chair)

Guidelines Committee: Patti Raksin

Members: Adair Prall, Odette Harris, Steve Casha, Paul Arnold, Shirley Stiver, Greg Hawryluk, Jack Jallo, Martina

Spinal Injury Committee: Steve Casha

Rapid Response Committee: Shelly Timmons (Liaison to Joint Washington Committee)

Members: Adair Prall, Paul Arnold, Ben Rodgers, Clemens Schirmer

International: Andres Rubiano (Colombia)

Sports Injury Committee: Julian Bailes; Tanvir Choudhri (Vice Chair)

Military/Rural Neurosurgery Committee: Rocco Armonda

Nominating Committee: Geoffrey Manley

Liaisons (2014-16)

CNS EC: Jamie Ullman

AANS BOD: Jamie Ullman

Joint WC: Shelly Timmons

QIW: Shelly Timmons, Ben Rodgers, Chris Zacko

ACS/COT: Jamie Ullman (Chair, COT Neurosurgery Subspecialty Group)

National Neurotrauma Society: Geoff Manley

Spine Section: Paul Arnold

Neurocritical Care Society: Chris Zacko

YNS Committee: Maya Babu

Pediatric Section: Pending

CV Section: Sharon Webb

Physician Extenders: Pending

SNS: James Ecklund (2012-14)

CSNS: J. Adair Prall

ThinkFirst: Julie Pilitsis,

Brain Trauma Foundation: Gregory Hawryluk