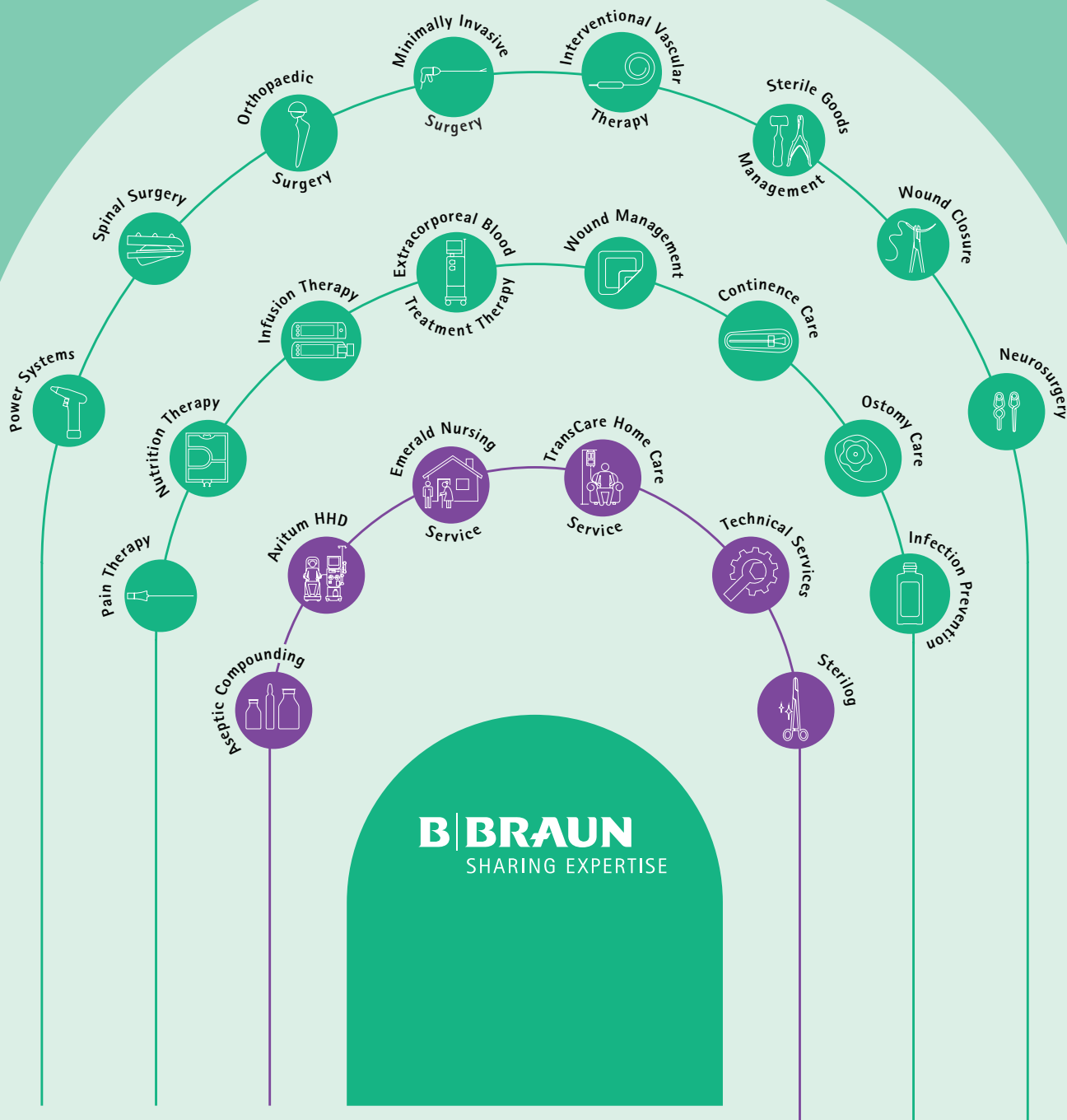




Newsletter July 2025

Society of British Neurological Surgeons



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# A Message from the President



Prof. Peter Hutchinson, SBNS President

## Dear Friends,

I cannot believe how quickly this year is progressing! I hope that you are all well and able to find some downtime over the summer. I am pleased to share some important updates and reflect on recent events.

So far this year we have made four new appointments. Congratulations to Nigel Mendoza, President Elect, Paul Brennan, Chair of the Academic Committee, Philip O'Halloran, Trauma Lead and Ahmed Toma, CSF lead.

It has been a busy year for meetings including a joint meeting in February with the Sri Lankan Society in Colombo and thank you to Nihal Gurusinghe and Ruvini Abeygunaratne for facilitating this. This was very successful both scientifically and socially, including the opportunity to name a newborn elephant, David after my father. The SBNS meeting in March in Belfast was held with the US Society of Neurological Surgeons - a joint meeting of two very senior global societies for which I thank Nathan Selden, SNS President, and Richard Byrne, SNS Secretary, with a reciprocal meeting in Cleveland. The Society has also been represented at the British Neuroscience Association in Liverpool in April, which was aligned to the Future of Neurosurgery initiative. My thanks go to Michael Jenkinson Vice President for research, innovation and

impact and Crispin Wigfield Honorary Secretary for facilitating this. We were also represented at the Neuro Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society (NACCS) in April in Cambridge with a strong SBNS session, including presentations covering vascular neurosurgery, workforce and advances in neurosurgical technology. We look forward to future meetings, particularly the SBNS meeting in Bristol (23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025) with the Hellenic Society as our guests, the EANS congress in Vienna (5th-9th October 2025), the joint SBNS/BNRG meeting in Harrogate (15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026) and the SBNS 100 in London (October 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2026).

While we have known and started planning for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of the Society for several years the meeting is now next year! Preparations are continuing at a rapid pace and I would like to thank the SBNS 100 committee - Sam Hettige, Katie Gilkes, Mark Wilson, Peter Whitfield, Crispin Wigfield, Michael Jenkinson, Nigel Mendoza, Jonathan Pollock, Richard Gullan, Surajit Basu, Alix Gordon, Suzanne Murray, Carole Turner for all the hard work to date and addressing the challenges of organising such a large international meeting. SBNS100 will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in central London and the Gala dinner will be at the Natural History Museum. We are working hard to maximise attendance from other specialties (including the Association of British Neurologists, Neuro Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society, British Association of Day Surgery, BASS, BNOS and the British Neuropathological Society) and international colleagues, a formal invitation has been sent to other national societies. We are also producing a new SBNS history of UK and Irish Neurosurgery book, led by Jonathan Pollock and Richard Gullan, and a portfolio of the top UK and Irish publications over the past 100 years, led by Michael Jenkinson, Paul Brennan and Catherine McMahon. Please invite your colleagues and promote the meeting. Please contact Suzanne for promotional

material and a PowerPoint slide. There will also be the opportunity to become a SBNS Patron - more to follow.

The Future of Neurosurgery initiative is growing under the leadership of Michael Jenkinson with the aim of promoting impact, including change of practice, and supporting the membership with getting their ideas - technology and novel approaches to treatment into practice. We also have plans to increase the portfolio of spinal surgery research with the appointment of a second Neurosurgical Specialty Lead focusing on Spinal Research. The next BNRG meeting in London (December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2025) to be led by Stephen Price and Hani Marcus, will focus on new technology.

The SBNS Global Initiative continues to flourish under the leadership of Nigel Mendoza supported by the Global committee, including Alastair Jenkins, Chris Barrett, Simon Thomson, Peter Whitfield and Iona Jenkins. The Global initiative supports fellowships (UK to Low-middle income country and vice-versa), research opportunities in collaboration with NIHR Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury. Recent activities include signing a pledge to the Boston Declaration and attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva to drive the initiative with colleagues in Pakistan to define traumatic brain injury as a notifiable and chronic disease. We continue to make a major contribution to the activities of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies and have made similar contributions to the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, which continues to go through difficult times. Thank you to Tina Karabatsou and Sanjeeva Jeyaretna for acting as our EANS/WFNS reps.

The National Neurosurgery Audit Programme, led by Adel Helmy and Adam Williams, has new focusses in addition to the traditional unit reports, including supporting specific audits /registries and working with Nigel Mendoza for plans





The SBNS Council and Consultants from Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

for a Safe Neurosurgery initiative. Nihal Gurusinghe, our NICE representative, is working with colleagues to generate further evidence in relation to the role of lumbar puncture in the diagnosis of subarachnoid haemorrhage.

The main commissioning update relates in the short term to SBNS representation on the NHS England with low volume, high complexity surgery working groups. Thanks to Andy King for his work as our representative on the CRG. It is our understanding that the neurosurgical networks will continue to follow the proposed restructuring of the NHS, particularly in relation to NHS England.

The workforce survey, thanks to Kat Whitehouse, is important to assist with future planning and I encourage all units to contribute to this. It complements the census from the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Support for the membership continues to be delivered by both mentoring, led by Ian Kamaly, and the support line, provided by Emily Borhan.

The British Journal of Neurosurgery ran an excellent breakfast seminar in Belfast and

will play a significant role in the SBNS100 celebrations. Thank you to our Editor Nitin Mukerji. We have received good feedback about the new SBNS website. If you have any suggestions regarding the website please contact Suzanne, Alix or Carole.

In terms of trainee updates, Rosa Sun has taken over the leadership of the BNTA. Rosa gave an excellent presentation on UK Neurosurgical Training at the SNS meeting in Cleveland, Ohio in May. The BNTA has submitted a letter of evidence and data from the 2023 BNTA survey to the Medical Training Review. With Donald Macarthur representing the SAC, a virtual Q and A meeting was held in May with the BNTA (thanks also to Peter Whitfield and Kat Whitehouse for joining the panel) and other updates from SAC include finalising the new curriculum.

There are several ongoing initiatives across a broad range of topics including collaboration with the British Association of Day Surgery to register day neurosurgery procedures, supporting Transcranial MRI guided focused Ultrasound for essential tremor, advice on MDT working and

CPD approval, SBNS advice on travelling abroad and working with the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations on initiatives including Physician Assistants/ Associates, the Medical Training Review and the Prioritisation Process. We have an exciting update in terms of the Barrow Foundation coming soon and plans for a new group on Peripheral nerve surgery.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Peter Whitfield for his excellent leadership as President and his previous contributions to the Society and for hosting an excellent awayday council meeting in Plymouth, the SEC, Nigel Mendoza, Surajit Basu, Crispin Wigfield, Michael Jenkinson and Sam Hettige, the admin team Suzanne Murray, Alix Gordon and Carole Turner, Council, and you, as members, for your ongoing commitment to neurosurgical patients in the UK, Ireland and beyond.

I look forward to catching up with you next year at the Bristol SBNS if not before, and, in the meantime, I wish you all a very happy summer.

With best wishes,

Prof. Peter Hutchinson

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

## Welcome New Members

The following new members had their membership approved by the Council. They will be ratified at the AGM in Bristol 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### Full

Anouk Borg	London
Bhaskar Thakur	Romford
Victoria Wykes	Birmingham

### Associate

Henry Ajah	London
Callum Allison	Newcastle
Ayesha Arshad	Oxford
Hasan Asif	London
Pierce Burr	Leeds
Harry Carr	South Tees
Ehtesham Ghani	Newcastle
Malika Jayasinghe	Plymouth
Manoj Manivel	Plymouth
Stuart Moorey	Dublin
Salman Shaikh	Manchester
Elliot Tilling	Leeds
Anjana Varghese	London
Sediquallah Walizai	Manchester

### Affiliated

Zoubeyr Abbou	Preston
Oluwaseyi Adebola	Liverpool
Lydia Adeogun	Cambridge
Usama Choudry	Nottingham
Aaron Gan	Doncaster
Deena Gendoo	Birmingham
Wendy Geng	Yorkshire
Alexander Irving	Glasgow
Abdul Khan	Preston
Neha Khanderia	London
Leonard Koch	Germany
Kavin Purushottaman	Newcastle
Arzaan Shaikh	Nottingham
Amy Webb	Bristol

### International

Damiano Barone	USA
Peter Hwang	Singapore
Mark Morgan	Jamaica
Wesley Ramcharan	Trinidad & Tabago

### Senior

John Martin	Wales
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## New Appointments



### SBNS President Elect – Nigel Mendoza

Nigel Mendoza has been elected as the next President of the SBNS. He will commence his role as President-Elect at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in Bristol in September 2025, and he will take over as President in October 2026 at the SBNS100 Meeting.

Nigel has a longstanding association with the SBNS. He has served as an Elected Council member, Treasurer and is currently the SBNS Vice President for Global Affairs.

He also has 30 years' experience as a consultant neurosurgeon and is committed to improving education and training for our trainees and to provide better treatment and outcomes for Neurosurgical patients in the UK, Ireland and beyond.

We wish him all the very best in his new role.



### SBNS Academic Chair - Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan, consultant neurosurgeon, based in Edinburgh, was recently appointed as the Chair of the SBNS Academic Committee and will take up his post at the end of July 2025.

"Professor Michael Jenkinson hands over the Chair of the Academic Committee in a great shape, building on generations of academic excellence. UK neurosurgeons and UK neurosurgical research is world leading and is having a meaningful impact for patients.

The SBNS Academic Committee leads translational science, innovation and robotics, and clinical trials. The working groups of the committee are open to the whole UK neurosurgical community, whether you've done research before or not. I'd encourage everyone to feel able to apply to join. The Academic neurosurgical community should be representative of the wider neurosurgical community and of the patient population we serve."



### SBNS Lay Council Member - James Piercy

James was appointed to the SBNS Council in January as our Lay Representative, replacing Sue Woodward who had been in the post since July 2010 and made a huge contribution. James is a Science communicator, Trainer and Public Engagement Consultant and a Honorary Lecturer in science communication. He is also a trustee of the UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum and has taken a role as PPIE Lead for the Brain Injury Healthtech Research Centre.

He is a brain injury survivor and is naturally keen to help the Society further its aims and increase awareness of our work as well as using his firsthand experience to bring the patients' voice to the fore. I am sure you will agree his credentials make him the perfect candidate to join the SBNS Council.



### SBNS Trauma Lead Phillip O'Halloran

It is an absolute privilege to be appointed as the SBNS Neurotrauma Lead. I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution my predecessor, Prof Mark Wilson, has made to the subspeciality. His enthusiasm, determination and leadership over the years has motivated and inspired so many of us at home and abroad.

After graduating with a BSc in Physiology from University College Cork, I completed my medical degree at RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences in 2008. During my neurosurgery residency in Ireland, I was awarded a PhD from RCSI examining the molecular biology of high-grade brain tumours, conducting translational studies at the European Institute of Molecular Imaging in Germany. In 2020 I completed the Neuro-Oncology/Skull Base fellowship at the University of Toronto, followed by the UK's first RCS approved Neurotrauma Fellowship at the Royal London Hospital Major Trauma Centre. In 2021 I was awarded the Dan Rooney Concussion fellowship at UPMC Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and subsequently became a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham with Trauma and Oncology subspecialties. During this time, I was also very fortunate to work as an Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Royal Centre for Defense Medicine (RCDM).

In September 2024, I returned to Dublin to take up a new position at the Major Trauma Centre at the Mater Hospital and work as a Neurotrauma Consultant at the Royal London Hospital.

Going forward we have many exciting initiatives, including the resurrection of the annual Neurotrauma conference as well establishing a Neurotrauma Mentor/Mentee programme. I will work collaboratively with associated specialties i.e. Critical Care Society, RCEM, PHEM, BTS, BANN etc. while also creating a support network for consultants and trainees across UK and Ireland with Neurotrauma interests - if you wish to be part of this network, please do reach out to me. I look forward to working alongside many of you as we grow the subspeciality in both a clinical and an academic capacity.



### CSF Lead - Ahmed Toma

Ahmed has taken over as the new CSF Sub-specialty Lead, replacing Richard Edwards. All Sub-specialty Leads are invited guests to the SBNS Council and regularly attend council meetings to inform them of their activities.

"I will continue the mission my predecessors started in promoting hydrocephalus as a neurosurgical subspeciality. I will work on building up a network of UK neurosurgeons with interest in adult hydrocephalus, with representation from each neurosurgical unit in the country. The aim is to work together in advancing the field, by addressing challenges and establishing guidelines and improving shunt participation. This network could also improve research collaboration and potentially start UK multicentre trials to address areas of equipoise."

**Congratulations to all and the best of luck in your new roles.**

**At the end of September, we will be calling for nominations for an SBNS/EANS Representative to serve a 4-year term.**



## Sad Farewell



### Ted Buckley - 14.11.1935 - 24.12.2024

Ted Buckley was one of nine children from North Cork and the first in his family to study medicine. He went to secondary school and medical school in the city, graduating in 1959, doing his intern year and S.H.O. jobs in surgery there. He worked for a General Surgeon who had done two years as a neurosurgical Registrar in the London Hospital but then received no support from the surgical Mafia in Cork when he tried to set up a neurosurgical service back home. He encouraged Ted to follow in his footsteps and helped him to obtain his first job in London, followed by a Registrar job in Oxford under the charismatic Joe Pennybacker. He was subsequently Senior Reg. in Manchester and then briefly a Consultant in Liverpool before a new post opened in Cork. In Oxford, he worked alongside Brian Cummins (Bristol) and John Miles (Liverpool). John moved into the Liverpool job when Ted vacated it. The three became the best of friends, with their three families meeting up every New Year without fail for over 35 years in Cork, Liverpool or Bristol.

For eight years, Ted the Head (as he was universally known) worked on a one-in-one rota, training all his juniors early on to perform burr holes for trauma cases, to buy time when Ted had to be summoned from his holiday house, a good hour away, by the sea in West Cork. The juniors were also trained to do direct-stick carotid angiograms for trauma, until Cork acquired a CT scanner in 1980. He was man of gritty tenacity with an extraordinary ability to cope with the many tragedies of neurosurgical practice without the moral support and help of a colleague.

Luckily, Ted had picked up many of the traits of his great mentor Pennybacker who was renowned for his very speedy, efficient operating, for his meticulous neurological examinations and an exceedingly calm temperament. He and I worked together for ten years, and I never heard him get agitated or even raise his voice in a job where things frequently get very close to the edge: the sort of man you'd like on your side or fighting your corner. I'm not sure that I ever heard him swear, either. Brought up in the pre-CT area, he showed up my own imperfect neurological skills. He taught a long series of juniors to take meticulous histories and to examine patients fully. He demanded high standards from them but in an era when Consultants were still often behaving like remote Demi-gods - Sir Lancelot Spratt springs to mind - he was always approachable and listened to his team's opinions.

He was never a fan of the operating microscope, clipping his aneurysms using loops and always with two assistants holding brain retractors. Out of curiosity, we did a six-year audit of his and my ruptured aneurysm outcomes from the 1990's - just under 100 cases for each of us: the only difference was a higher intraoperative rupture rate in his series. The outcomes for the two of us were almost identical and would later have passed muster with the results published by the National Study of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage in U.K. and Ireland, 2001-2002.

Clearly of high intelligence, he was quietly intolerant of fools, but he never belittled people publicly. He was ever the gentleman and the best of colleagues: supportive, considerate and never jealous. He contributed much to the wider health service, serving for many years on the regional Health Board and on three different SBNS committees. After retirement at almost 65, he spent four years as Chairman of the Medical Council's Fitness to Practice Committee. His pithy, perceptive - and often very funny - comments on the committee were treasured by many.

He had a terrific marriage to Maeve, a Lecturer in U.C.C., who predeceased him by twelve years. He remained exceptionally close to their five daughters who were clearly devoted to him. Four of them were with him when he died at home on December 26th last year and the fifth was en route from England to take her turn in minding him at home.

He remained fully orientated and conversant to the end. He bore his final illness with great stoicism, accepting his cancer diagnosis and its various unpleasant complications without the least complaint.

He had a great life and enjoyed it. He loved sailing and good wine, mainly bought on regular trips to France, a country which he got to know well in retirement: he spoke good French. He was great fun socially and very well-read. Cork and Irish neurosurgery were very lucky to have him.

A life well-lived Ave atque vale

Charlie Marks

## Prof. Alan Crockard scores a double!



Prof. Hutchinson and Alan Crockard

Alan was awarded the SBNS Medal for his services to British Neurosurgery by the SBNS President Prof. Peter Hutchinson at the Gala Dinner during the SBNS Spring meeting in Belfast in March. Alan revolutionised surgery at the craniocervical junction particularly trans-oral surgery, invented and introduced new spinal instrumentation and was highly influential in establishing the cervical spine as a legitimate subspecialty for neurosurgeons in the UK. He also made a major impact in neurosurgical education initiatives across the surgical disciplines on behalf of the RCSEng which have evolved across all the Royal Colleges and major hospital trusts today.



Prof. Jacques Marcos & Alan Crockard

He then went on to receive a Distinguished Service Award from Prof. Jacques Marcos, AANS President at their annual Meeting in Boston USA, on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for his dedicated services to the speciality of neurosurgery. The citation read "For management of ICP in Head injuries, the development of approaches to the Skull base and Spine with instruments and instrumentation. Also setting up of

Cadaveric Surgical Skills Courses at the Royal College of Surgeons (London) and Perth West Australia".

The only other British Neurosurgeon to receive this award was Professor Sir Graham Teasdale in 2014 for his work on the Glasgow Coma Scale. It is wonderful to see British Neurosurgeons acknowledged internationally for their achievements especially in the lead up the SBNS' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Caroline Hayhurst –  
Honorary Professor

Caroline has been appointed as Honorary Visiting Professor of the University of Buckingham for her contribution to postgraduate medical education. With a team of British and International neurosurgeons, she helped develop an online master's degree in neurosurgery designed for trainees around the world. The programme offers a comprehensive review of evidence-based neurosurgery aligned with the core curriculum, supporting the next generation of neurosurgeons in their professional development.

I am sure you will all agree this is an admirable achievement. If anyone wishes to join their tutor team, please contact the SBNS office ([admin@sbns.org.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.org.uk)) and we will forward on your details to her.

Sir Hugh Cairns Essay Prize Winner 2025  
Euan Strachan was awarded the prestigious Sir Hugh Cairns prize for his essay entitled "Choroidal Fissure: in medias res".

Euan is an ST5 Neurosurgery Resident at the Wessex Neurological Centre, Southampton. However, he is currently out of programme and undertaking the International Academy of Neurosurgical Anatomy (IANA) Research Fellowship at the Université de Tours, France.



Euan Strachan –  
Sir Hugh Cairns  
Essay Prize  
Winner 2025

He has been working closely with Mr Thomas Santarius and Professor Igor Maldonado, and their project aims to finally elucidate the microvascular anatomy of the human fornix. His essay on the related choroidal fissure is an attempt to highlight its central importance in our neurosurgical knowledge and training, whilst hopefully overcoming some of its inherent complexity that can confound many trainees.



Oliver Sluijters –  
Prof. John  
Pickard CSF  
Essay Prize 2025

Oliver Sluijters was awarded the Prof. John Pickard CSF Essay prize for the essay entitled: 'Exploring and translating novel approaches targeting the choroid plexus for the treatment of hydrocephalus: where are we now'.

Oliver is a an ST3 neurosurgery trainee, based in Bristol. He is originally from the Netherlands and attended Medical School at Cambridge and UCL. After completing foundation training and a year of anatomy teaching in Bristol, where he obtained his training number. His academic and subspecialty interests include epilepsy, neuro-oncology and hydrocephalus.

Both essay prize winners will be presenting their respective essays at the SBNS meeting in Bristol this September and will be presented with their certificates at the Gala Dinner on Thursday by the SBNS President.

## Future Leaders Programme



Shumaila Hassan has been selected, from numerous applications, to take part in the next round of the Future Leaders Programme which is run by the RCS Edinburgh. Her place is sponsored by SBNS, and she will be the 5<sup>th</sup> member the SBNS has sponsored on this project since 2022.

Influential leaders create an environment that promotes teamwork, quality, safety, and education, all contributing to better surgical results and patient satisfaction. In a complex system such as surgery, leadership is distributed, and the clinician's responsibility is to contribute to this process by fostering and empowering others' leadership capacity. The SBNS believes in investing in our members and helping them to progress in their careers and we hope she enjoys the course.

"I'm honoured to have been selected for the Future Leaders Programme. As a neurosurgery fellow I have already been entrusted with leadership roles in clinical governance and education, and I've seen firsthand how strong, inclusive leadership can drive meaningful change for both patients and teams. My interests lie in advancing neurosurgical services, particularly in trauma and neuro-oncology, while also shaping training, safety, and service delivery at a systems level. I'm looking forward to learning from peers across specialties, challenging my own perspectives, and developing the skills needed for senior leadership roles, including within the SBNS and SAC. I see this programme as a key step in evolving from a departmental leader into a national voice for neurosurgical innovation and improvement."


 Future  
Leaders  
Programme

## SBNS Pin Badge Now Available To Members



Modeled by Alix Gordon



An SBNS Pin Badge is now available for SBNS Members. You can pick up yours at SBNS conferences at the registration desk (next one is in Bristol) and wear it with pride.

It can also be picked up at the SBNS office at the RCSEng, please email the day before to ensure either Alix or Suzanne are in that day.

We are also planning on producing a commemorative 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin badge which will be given to all delegates attending the SBNS100 Conference in October 2026.

## Membership Subscription Increase

At the January 2025 Council meeting it was agreed that the SBNS Membership fees will be increased to take into account inflation and our rising operational costs. The rates were last increased 8 years ago in January 2018.

The new rates are listed below and will come into effect from January 2026. Formal notification will be sent to members in due course.

It was also proposed that there be an option for members to add a voluntary donation for a specific cause when renewing their membership to support the Society's Charitable aims, such as supporting UK Trainees and the SBNS Global Initiative.

The new proposed rates are as follows:

Current fee Honorary	Proposed Fee
Full - £300	£350
Associate - £150	£165
International - £100	£150* there will be a reduced rate for LMIC members
Affiliated - £25	£45
Senior - Free	Free
Honorary - Free	Free



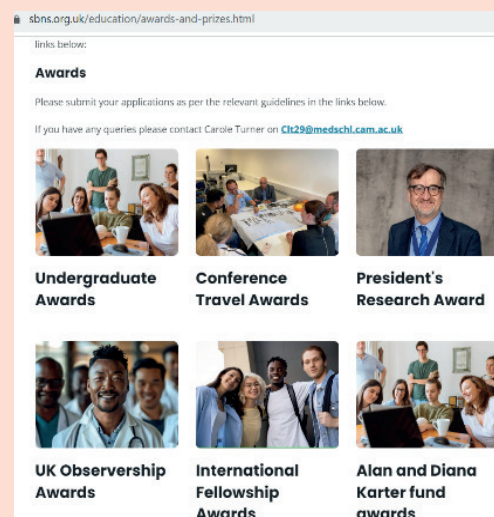
## SBNS Awards – Money, Money, Money! - Don't Miss Out!

The SBNS AWARDS (formally known as bursaries) have had a revamp – please visit the Education page on the SBNS website SBNS Awards, Bursaries & Prizes to find out more. There are varying categories, and you could be eligible to apply.

On this page there is also information about the various essay prizes for all you talented trainees out there. You could receive a cash prize, an opportunity to present your work at an SBNS Meeting and, best of all, a free gala dinner ticket.

If you have any queries about the above, please contact Carole Turner ([clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk)).

Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager

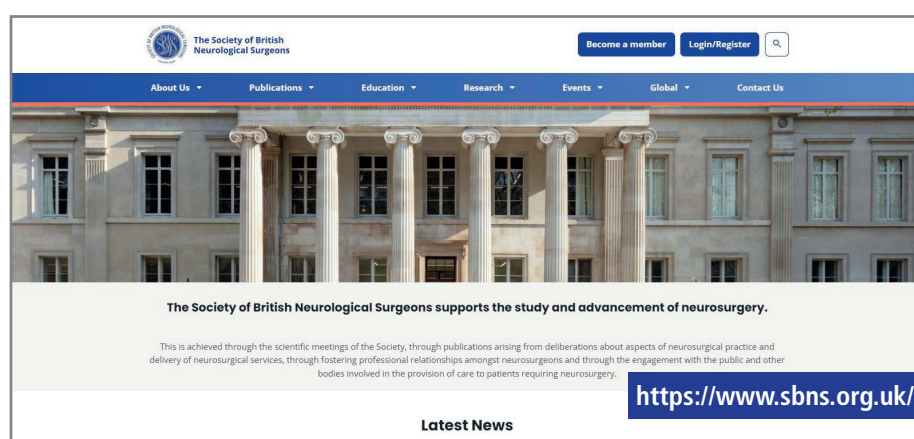


## SBNS Website

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the SBNS launched its new website. We hope SBNS members, and the public, will like its new fresh look and find it more user friendly. Please take the time to explore the pages and the new functionality. It is still in its infancy, and we plan to develop it further as time goes on and we would welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvement. It would also be nice to know if there are elements you particularly like.

To gain access to the BJNS and JNS, SBNS minutes and other "members only" areas you will need to log in. If you have not logged in since the launch, your username will be the email address you had registered on the previous site, but you will need to reset your password. To do this, select the 'forgotten password' link.

Once logged in, it is important that you update your profile – this includes contact details, communication preferences etc. In the 'My SBNS' you can list the neurosurgical topics you are interested in - this will be used to send relevant articles and news items to your home page when you log in. You can also update your membership status if this has changed i.e. Associate to Full if you have recently completed your training or Full to Senior if you are intending to retire or have already done so.

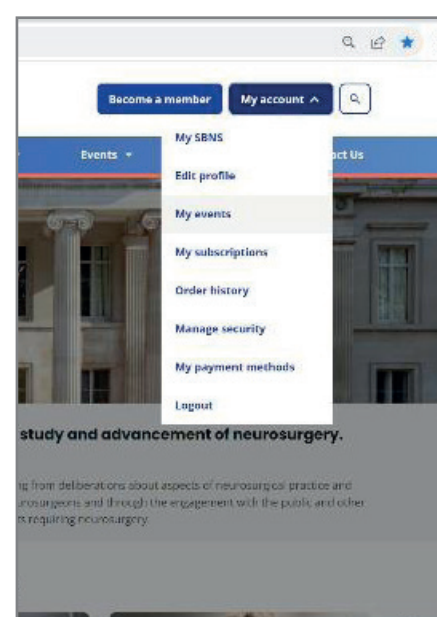


We would also like you to complete the EDI questions which will enable us to have a better idea of the demographics of our membership. The data collected will remain confidential.

Under 'My Subscriptions' you can print off your membership certificate, under 'My Events' You can see what SBNS events you have attended and download/print your invoices and attendance certificates. You are also now able to print off your payment receipt for subs under 'Order History'.

Lastly, don't forget to check the upcoming events on the home page, there may be some courses and conferences that you'd like to attend, especially the upcoming SBNS ones.

Happy Surfing!



Suzanne and Alix



## SBNS 100 Conference

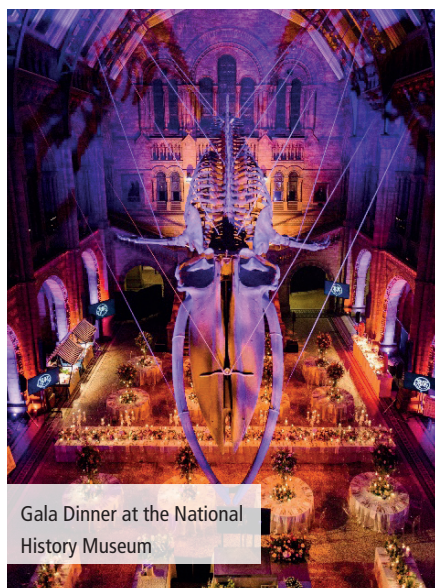
### 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026

In 2026 the Society of British Neurological Surgeons will be marking its Centenary with a conference to celebrate all that has been achieved in neurosurgery, and the related neurosciences, in the UK and Ireland over the past 100 years.

The event is taking place at the QEII Conference Centre, Westminster adjacent to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey in the city, 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026, and we would like to extend a cordial invitation to all our members. The theme of the meeting will be Past, Present and Future.

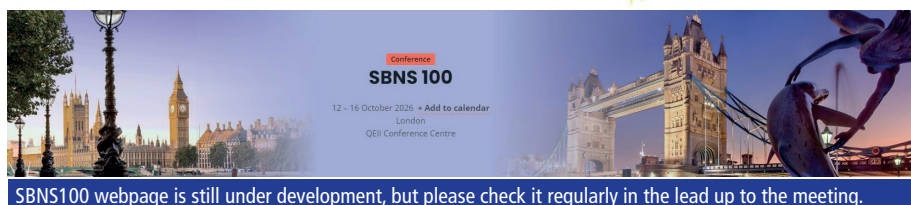
#### "Unlocking minds, illuminating futures: A century of surgical neuroscience"

The Programme will cover all neurosurgery subspecialties as well as all aspects of neuroscience from clinical practice to training and research. There will also be contributions from the wider neuro community including neurology, neuroradiology, neuro-anaesthesia, neuro-intensive care, neuropathology and neurorehabilitation – truly, a neuro-Olympics!



Gala Dinner at the National History Museum

There are also plans to hold public lectures and an exhibition at the Royal Society of Medicine, running from September to December 2026, displaying neurosurgical artifacts.



SBNS100 webpage is still under development, but please check it regularly in the lead up to the meeting.

As well as a comprehensive academic programme there will also be some memorable social events, the highlight of which will be the gala dinner at the iconic National History Museum on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The welcome reception will be on the top floor of the QE2 conference centre which has spectacular views of the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and London's surrounding skyline. It will be a great opportunity to reunite with friends and colleagues and hopefully make some new ones.

The SBNS have also teamed up with a tour company who will be providing delegates, and their accompanying partners and families, opportunities to visit the local attractions in and around our fabulous city. We would like this event to be an inclusive and enjoyable event for everyone.

#### SBNS History Book

To commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the SBNS Archivists, Jonathan Pollock and Richard Gullan have been preparing a book on British and Irish Neurosurgery 1926 - 2026. The drafting of the publication is well advanced. However, further contributions are welcomed by those units that have not yet been in touch. They are still on the lookout for a timeline from each unit describing its formation, those appointed, key achievements and publications.

You can contact Jonathan and Richard by email [jonathanpollock@nhs.net](mailto:jonathanpollock@nhs.net), [richardgullan@hotmail.com](mailto:richardgullan@hotmail.com) or you can pass on information via the SBNS Office.

The programme committee will also be inviting each Neurosurgical unit to prepare a poster on the history of their unit which will be displayed at the conference.

#### SBNS Patron

To support the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we are launching a Centenary fund-raising appeal offering members and friends of the Society the chance to become a SBNS Patron. The funds will be used to support the Society in our mission to enhance training and research opportunities and the treatment and outcome for Neurosurgical patients in the UK, Ireland and beyond. We will be seeking donations from individuals and organisations for which you will be recognised as an SBNS Patron. Once the process is in place further information will be forwarded to members and placed on the SBNS100 Conference page on the SBNS website.

Lastly, if you are attending any international meetings in the lead up to the conference or have any connections with colleagues abroad who have worked or trained in the UK, please promote this event. Suzanne can supply you with slides or any further information ([admin@sbns.org.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.org.uk)).

The SBNS100 webpage is still under development, but please check it regularly in the lead up to the meeting.

We look forward to meeting you at our celebratory conference in 2026.

Prof. Peter Hutchinson and  
the SBNS 100 Committee



# Save The Date - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## 40<sup>th</sup> Year Stereotactic Radiosurgery Celebration Meeting

An amazing journey to establish a pioneering neurosurgical tool started in November 1985. A unique celebration of the evolution of cranial Stereotactic Radiosurgery in the UK/Sheffield which we are planning to celebrate in Sheffield.

The Meeting will be held at the new Radisson Blue Hotel in Sheffield with lectures to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of stereotactic radiosurgery in the UK and of our Unit in Sheffield. We are very proud of what has been achieved and look

forward to the years and decades to come to help our deserving patient population, many of which have avoided morbidity and mortality due to this groundbreaking technology.

Matt Radatz Consultant Neurosurgeon  
Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

## NeusMent – Help for Jr Doctors in training



**NeusMent**  
An Independent charity for medical student and junior doctors offering mentorship and education in neurosurgery

NeusMent registered charity group for medical students and junior doctors  
Affiliated with NHS Lothian, Scotland  
Founder: Mr Chandrasekaran Kaliaperumal, based in Edinburgh, Scotland



Connect online and in person



### Different ways to connect



**NeusIT**  
free education resource

We are committed to providing free accessible education for all who are interested in neurosurgery.



**Mentorship**

Connecting mentees with experienced mentors who are deeply enthusiastic about their work, the organisation aims to inspire and cultivate this passion, encouraging students to dedicate themselves to a career in neurosurgery.



**Our Ethos**

Through mentorship, it empowers medical students and doctors to reach their full potential and contributes to the ongoing progress and success of the field.



**Community**

Being part of a community and being able to connect is an enjoyable experience.

### Early Career Neurosurgery Education

#### NeusIT Education

- NeusIT Online lecture based
- Neuroanatomy quizzes
- Neurosurgery basics
- Practicalities of Neurosurgery

#### Mentorship

- Providing guidance & career development
- Students are paired with a senior in neurosurgery or a healthcare professional
- Exposure to ongoing research projects
- Commitment to academic excellence
- Promoting diversity and inclusion

### Meet the team!

LinkedIn: Chandrasekaran Kaliaperumal



LinkedIn: @KateMinta



LinkedIn: Priya Kadam



Dominique da Luz



Twitter: @dansescu

Donate  
scan QR



www.neusment.org



Contact Us



Do you have junior doctors in neurosurgery who would like teaching on demand? A busy ward with registrars who are often tied up with clinical duties? Or are you a medical student looking to broaden your understanding of neurosurgery? Look no further....

NeusIT 'Neus Information tech' Is the newest member of the NeusMent group. NeusMent is a nonprofit registered Scottish charity which offers medical student & junior doctor mentorship in neurosurgery.

NeusIT can be accessed through the NeusMent website <https://www.neusment.org/> and offers educational sessions in Neurosurgery, Neuroanatomy and some of the practicalities of working in the speciality.

**Disclaimer:** educational sessions are not designed to replace neurosurgery training and should not be taken as so. For clinical advice always consult appropriate seniors in practice. NeusIT and NeusMent does not take responsibility for content used inappropriately

For any neurosurgical trainees interested in teaching juniors (primarily online) please contact:

Priya Kadam: [pkneurosurgery@gmail.com](mailto:pkneurosurgery@gmail.com)

NeusIT co-founder part of the NeusMent Scottish based charity group, offering education and mentorship for medical students and junior doctors in neurosurgery.

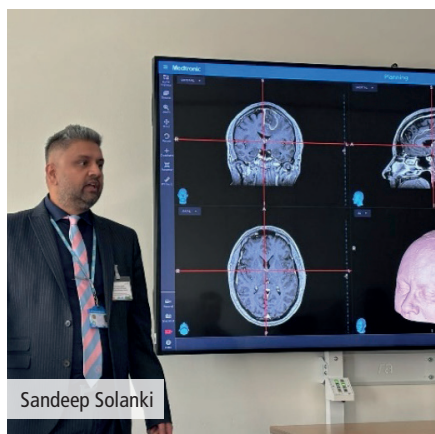
## ST6 National Simulation Training Course

The Inaugural Advanced National High-Fidelity Neurosurgery Simulation Course (aka ST6 + Bootcamp)

8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025, West Midlands Surgical Training Centre, University Hospital Coventry, UK



A first of its kind, The Inaugural Advanced National High-Fidelity Neurosurgery Simulation Course – fondly referred to as the ST6+ Bootcamp – commenced its place within the proud portfolio of the JCST-SAC's series of National Neurosurgery Simulation Programmes (ANP, ST1, ST3, ST7/8).



Building upon the success of the existing UK national neurosurgery simulation training programmes and identifying an educational gap, this novel programme was conceived, spearheaded and heavily sponsored by our Immediate Past President of the SBNS and Senior Course Director, Professor Peter Whitfield. The concept, development and execution has been endorsed by the Neurosurgery Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC), chaired by Professor Donald MacArthur. The bespoke West Midlands Surgical Training Centre (WMSTC) in Coventry was the venue of choice due to its excellent cadaveric and surgical simulation facilities, brilliant staff and central location.

The world-class design and execution of this novel programme has been delivered by our two eminent Course Directors and Oxford Consultant Neurosurgeons, Mr Sanjeeva Jeyaretna and Professor Puneet Plaha, alongside their highly experienced UK Consultant Neurosurgeon faculty.

Our programme was limited to 24 delegates from across the UK at an advanced level of training - 22 of 24 holding NTN - 15 at ST6-level, 5 at ST7, 2 at ST5 and 2 Senior Fellows.

The Advanced Simulation Camp employed High-Fidelity techniques in a realistic operating theatre-style environment to perform complex procedures using cadaveric heads and specially prepared brains, as well as interactive lectures, over the 4-day residential training camp.

Two days were dedicated to Advanced Cranial Dissection led by Mr Jeyaretna and focused on skull base and neurovascular approaches, building upon the standard Pterional and Retrosigmoid workhorse approaches - taught at the ST3 camp – to the highest of levels, progressing to the Cavernous Sinus and Subtemporal region: Trans-meatal,

Far-lateral and Condylar extensions, respectively. Each phase of operative simulation was preceded by detailed anatomical and clinical discussions facilitated by the expert faculty. Live operative demonstrations performed microscopically by faculty members were

projected with state-of-the-art audio-visual support including 3D visualisation. Delegates enjoyed 1:1 coaching and educational support by faculty members.

A further two days were dedicated to White Fibre Dissection led by Prof. Plaha, where specially prepared cadaveric brains were used to intricately identify and dissect cortical anatomy and the subcortical white fibre tracts – all relevant to advanced neuro-oncological surgery. Delegates confidently demonstrated each of the White Fibre Tracts including the Arcuate, CST, IFOF, SLF, ILF and Optic Tracts. The white fibre dissection was perfectly complimented by a series of DTI-Tractography workshops using the 2 most-commonly used image-guidance and planning platforms, allowing immediate application of lab-based learning to everyday operative neuro-oncological practice. A series of case-based discussions and debates further consolidated learning relevant to routine clinical practice.

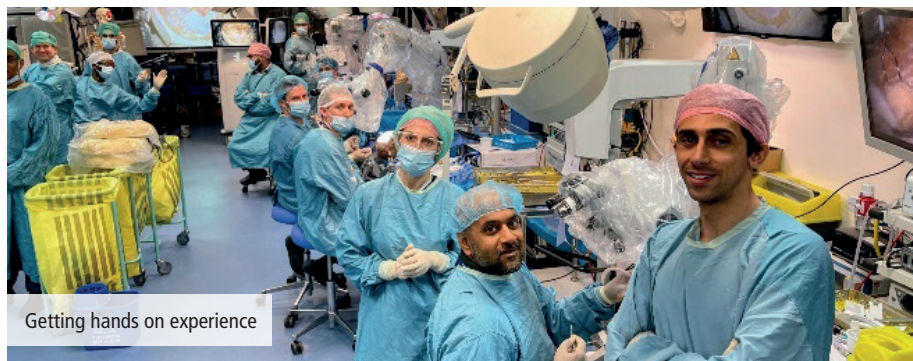
A deeply insightful Guest Lecture was interspersed within the 4 days, delivered by Mr Surajit Basu, Chair of the JCIE FRCS(SN) Examination, where he 'Demystified the Intercollegiate Fellowship Examination'; which was perfectly timed given the level of most delegates.

The course was extremely well received and praised by delegates and faculty alike with numerous requests to ensure this newest Neurosurgery Simulation Camp remains a permanent addition to the UK's National Neurosurgery Simulation Portfolio and an Annual feature.

A very big thank you goes out to the SBNS for their Educational Grant of £20,000 and all the Industry Sponsorship of equipment, personnel, educational dinners and educational grants, without which such a high-quality programme would be impossible.

The programme could not be delivered without our amazing, highly skilled,





Getting hands on experience

UK Consultant Neurosurgeon Faculty, investing their own time to come and impart their wisdom – and hence a huge thank you goes out to them all.

A final thanks goes out to all our trainees that attended from far and wide, investing their time and money – without whom such a fantastic course would not exist.

A proud moment for UK Neurosurgery.

### Feedback from Delegates

#### Hadleigh Cuthbert ST6, Birmingham

"I found the new ST6 Bootcamp very enjoyable and rewarding. It built upon principles taught in the ST3 bootcamp and the intervening years of clinical practice. It was particularly useful for studying and exploring white matter tracts and functional neuroanatomy. This is notoriously hard to learn didactically from a textbook, so the opportunity to dissect and follow these tracts individually on your own specimen was invaluable. The faculty were brilliant, and I would highly recommend the course to any peers at this stage in training!"

#### Rosa Sun ST6, Coventry

"I thoroughly enjoyed the ST6 bootcamp, it exceeded expectations and bridges a much-needed gap between ST3 and peri-CCT knowledge. The faculty were ace, and we all had good fun. The white matter dissection and cadaveric dissection sessions were the highlights; it's a great opportunity to do technical things that I quite never understood the theory of.

The sessions were systematic and covered a wide base. I would highly recommend this for all the incoming ST6 trainees."

#### Shyam Pujara ST7, Oxford

"The new ST6 bootcamp was excellent. It was a fantastic learning experience. I wish I had done it before my FRCS examination as it is extremely useful for the operative anatomy section of the examination. The skull base section was fantastic for performing microsurgery. I could never quite perceive the existence of the white matter tracts in a real brain until I performed the guided dissections. They are real after all!"

#### Omar Shawki Senior Fellow, Coventry

"The ST6 Bootcamp was a genuinely valuable experience, with a brilliant focus on skull base approaches and white matter dissection. The course was exceptionally well organised by the team and cadaveric lab with all the facilities was truly impressive. A huge credit goes to the consultants who led the course; their teaching was clear, practical, and rooted in real operative experience, which made the sessions both engaging and relevant. What made the course particularly impactful for me is how directly I was able to apply what I learned — I've already used several of the anatomical and surgical concepts in planning and performing cases since. It was an excellent few days of training and I'd recommend it without hesitation."



## Dates for Future Simulation Training Camps

STI – 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

### ST1 National Neurosurgery Simulation Training Camp (aka "Bootcamp")

The ST1 Stimulation Training Camp will take place 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025 at the Health Academy in Royal Preston Hospital. The course is supported and endorsed by the Neurosurgery SAC and the SBNS and provides hands-on experience in essential basic neurosurgical skills. There has been excellent feedback from previous groups regarding the educational, social, and team-building aspects of the course.

All newly appointed ST1 trainees in 2025 are strongly encouraged to attend. Training Programme Directors are requested to support study leave applications and forward the details of eligible trainees to Mr Isaac Phang ([isaac.phang@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:isaac.phang@lthtr.nhs.uk)) as early as possible.

Any Consultant keen to participate as faculty, for all or part of the training camp, can contact Mr Arup Ray ([arup.ray@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:arup.ray@lthtr.nhs.uk)).

Arup Ray & Isaac Phang, Course Organizers

ST3 - 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

The next course will be held at the University Hospital Coventry & West Midlands Surgical Training Centre, UK. It will be run by Mr Sandeep Solanki, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Course Director, JCST-SAC Simulation Lead for ST3. It is Endorsed by: Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) in Neurosurgery & the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) and is aimed at the ST3 trainees selected through Neurosurgery National Selection Process and is part of ST3 Curriculum. To find out more and to register please visit: <https://uhmeded.uhcw.nhs.uk/Surgical-Training-Centre/WMSTC-Courses/Simulation-Course-in-Neurosurgery>

ST7/8 – November 2025

The next ST7/8 Bootcamp, aka "finishing school" is scheduled to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Bristol. It will be run by Kat Whitehouse ([kwhitehouse@doctors.org.uk](mailto:kwhitehouse@doctors.org.uk)), SBNS Council Member/SBNS EDI Chair.

ST6 – April 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)

Please check the Training Resources page on the SBNS Website where further details will be posted.

Sandeep Solanki  
Consultant Neurosurgeon, Coventry, UK

Member JCST-SAC for Neurosurgery  
Local Course Director – Advanced (ST6+)  
Neurosurgery Simulation Camp Course Director – Foundational (ST3) Neurosurgery Simulation Camp

## SBNS Global Initiative

The Global Neurosurgery Initiative has now been established for two years, and I hope it has established an awareness of the difficulties faced by neurosurgeons in lower middle-income countries and more generally to the lack of surgical, obstetric and anaesthetic care that a significant percentage of the world's population continues to endure.

Subsequent SBNS meetings in Edinburgh, Birmingham and Belfast have each held a Global Neurosurgery session, with well attended presentations given by both UK and overseas residents. In the future we hope to establish the eponymous Diana and Ian Karter Lecture to honour their legacy to the SBNS.



Prakash Chandra Adhikari, Clinical Observer/ Travel Fellowship Participant from Nepal at Salford Royal Hospital & Ms Tina Karabatsou

We have an established bilateral exchange programme between Jamaica, Nepal and the UK. The reports from those that have already attended are available for review on the SBNS website. Later this year, we have three residents going to Nepal and two UK trainees travelling to Jamaica, plus two residents from Jamaica and Nepal attending UK units.

More recently, an exchange programme with Sri Lanka was approved, following discussion at their Council for the Neurosurgeons Associations of Sri Lanka, the subspecialty board of study in neurosurgery and the postgraduate institute of medicine, at the University of Colombo.



EANS supported skull base and neurovascular course held in Dar es Salam

In May of this year, the Diana and Alan Karter Global Neurosurgery Fund provided £10,000 to support the registration and travel costs for attendees at the EANS Supported Skull Base and neurovascular course held in Dar es Salam organised by Professor Ondra Petra, consultant neurosurgeon in Innsbruck with an internationally recognised faculty including, SBNS member Sanjeev Jeyaretna from Oxford. This certainly allowed those to attend, who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

In April of this year, Professor Hutchinson, Professor Whitfield, myself, and Sarah Venturini attended the Boston declaration where we undertook a pledge (along with another 100 organisations and charities) to continue the NIHR research and SBNS exchange programmes and to enhance further training and education.

The European Association of Neurosurgeons Global and Humanitarian Committee are continuing to work and develop a potential long-term twinning programme. The aim being to establish a sustainable exchange training programme for residents to attend Europe from lower middle-income countries. Obviously, being sensitive to the training needs of UK numbered trainees and given the current difficulties in obtaining a consultant post CCT, whether such a form of transcontinental training could be in some way embedded into an established UK training system will require a great deal of thought, consideration and discussion in the SBNS and SAC.

We continue to be in discussion with COSECSA about potential financial support for examiners from Sub-Saharan Africa to

attend their national examinations as well as more practical support with examiners who have experience with the JCIE neurosurgical exam travelling to attend local neurosurgical examinations.

Specifically, with that in mind, Rosa Sun, chairperson of the British Neurosurgery Association, has requested expressions of interest from UK residents who may wish to consider mentoring trainees from LMIC countries who are also in preparation for their exams, as well as to consider the potential of collaborative research and audit projects.

For those that may be interested, please either contact me directly by email or Miss Sun ([rosa.sun@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosa.sun@hotmail.co.uk)).



Finally, Chris Barrett, a member of the Global committee members was invited to speak at the 15<sup>th</sup> Chinese Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury in Zhengzhou, Henan province, on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The title was 'Glasgow Coma Scale: past, present and future'.

Nigel Mendoza,  
SBNS Vice President, Global Affairs



## Sri Lankan Meeting February 2025



Prof. Hutchinson and  
Dr Punsith Gunewardene,  
President of the NASL

In February this year the SBNS was invited to join the Neurosurgeons Association of the Sri Lankan Society's annual congress which was held in Columbo. This was a landmark event as it was the first joint meeting of the two societies. The theme of the meeting was "Neurosurgery Unleashed - Carving Pathways, Crafting Miracles". Eight SBNS members gave talks over the 3-day event, including our President, Prof. Hutchinson, Nigel Mendoza, Vice President for Global Affairs and Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe, SBNS NICE Co-Ordinator and fellow Sri Lankan. Ruvini Abeygunaratne, an International SBNS Member who trained in the UK and returned to her home in Sri Lanka to practice, helped co-ordinate the visit.

She also works part time in the UK at the Manchester Centre for Clinical Neurosciences for a few months each year - claiming she misses the cold UK weather and the Mancunian sense of humour! However, we suspect she comes back for a rest - her clinics in Sri Lanka are extremely busy.

It was a great opportunity for the two societies to get to know each other, exchange knowledge and for our Global Initiative Team to discuss setting up an exchange programme like the successful Caribbean one. The meeting was also in collaboration with the Neurological Society of India who were our guests at the SBNS Autumn meeting in Blackpool, so it was lovely to see so many familiar faces and to promote the SBNS 100 conference.

The meeting began with the Inauguration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Sessions with talks by Dr Punsith Gunewardene, President of the NASL, Prof. Peter Hutchinson and Prof. Mana Panigrahi, President of the NSI.



Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe MBE

Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe was presented with lifetime achievement award in recognition of his contribution to support and develop neurosurgery in Sri Lanka.

The guest speaker was Dr Sumith Pilapitya, Consultant to the World Bank's Global Wildlife Programme and Member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, who gave a fascinating talk "Saving Elephants by Knowing Them".

The content of the academic programme was outstanding with lectures by eminent neurosurgeons from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and UK.

During the meeting we were approached by the President of the Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons (NESON), Yam Roka, who was very interested in the SBNS GNI and invited the SBNS to their joint congress with the EANS 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in Kathmandu.

The social events were exceptional, especially their informal gala dinner at the Dutch Trails Restaurant. The Sri Lankans hosts were very hospitable and the SBNS contingency was made to feel very welcome. A big thank you also goes to Dr Stravinsky Perera, the Hon. Secretary of the NASL, for all his help in making the visit run smoothly. Hopefully we can reciprocate and invite the NASL to join an SBNS meeting in the not-too-distant future.

Suzanne Murray  
Senior SBNS Administrator



The faculty and invited guests celebrating the end of a successful meeting

## Academic Committee Update

The ROSSINI-platform trial is due to open in Autumn 2025. The trial is led by Professor Tom Pinkney (General Surgeon, Birmingham) and will investigate interventions to reduce wound infection. Cranial Neurosurgery (craniotomy) is one of six specialty pillars.

### The Interventions are:

1. Bone flap: saline vs betadine;
2. Wound irrigation: 1L vs standard wash;
3. Antibiotics: topical vancomycin powder vs nothing.

We aim to recruit ~4,000 patients. Surgeons can randomise any or all interventions. Patients with any craniotomy (trauma, oncology, vascular) are eligible. The neurosurgery pillar leads are Miss Ellie Edlmann (Plymouth) [ellie.edlmann@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:ellie.edlmann@plymouth.ac.uk) and Prof. Michael Jenkinson (Liverpool) [michael.jenkinson@liv.ac.uk](mailto:michael.jenkinson@liv.ac.uk). Please contact them if you are interested in participating.

### BNRG 2025 Meeting

The British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) Meeting will be held at the RCS Eng 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025. It will be jointly hosted by the Academic Committee of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) and the local organisers at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

The BNRG is a community of clinicians, scientists, nurses, and healthcare professionals with a shared interest in neurosurgical research. The meeting has traditionally provided a platform for presenting and discussing new study concepts and ongoing investigations.

This year's meeting will focus on technology and translation, in partnership with the Neurosurgical Innovation and Technology Symposium (NITS) and the Royal College of Surgeons of England Neurosurgical Clinical Trials Team. Sessions will highlight advances in these areas, exploring how emerging technologies and clinical trials are driving progress in neurosurgical



practice. However, we continue to welcome submissions from all areas of neurosurgical research, including discovery science, to ensure a broad and inclusive discussion. Submissions to practice for fellowship applications will also be welcomed.

### Abstract submission deadline:

Abstracts must be received by 23:59 on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

For more info, abstract submission and Registration visit: <https://shorturl.at/0eVYy>

### Surgical Specialty Lead (SSL) for Spine

The SBNS are supporting a new SSL post in spinal surgery to support national spinal surgery trial activity and research – job advert coming soon!

Finally, congratulations to the incoming Academic Committee Chair Professor Paul Brennan (Edinburgh) who will start in July 2025 and a big thank you to Professor Michael Jenkinson (Jenks) for his leadership and activity of the past 6 years. He will stay on the committee until 2026 as part of his Vice President role for Innovation.

Carole Turner  
Research Manager, SBNS

## British Neurosurgery Festival

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - Liverpool



L-R: Micheal Jenkinson, Tom Ferreira, Sho Giersztejn, Jibril Farah and Crispin Wigfield

The SBNS hosted a successful workshop at the British Neurosurgery Festival on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 titled 'Augmented reality, robotics, neuroprosthetics and incisionless surgery...is neurosurgery approaching the technological singularity'.

Crispin Wigfield led the session with excellent talks from two medical students, Sho Giersztejn and Tom Ferreira on technology and robotics, Jibril Farah on incisionless surgery for tremors and I gave a talk on AR in tumour surgery. Over 60 delegates engaged in a lively debate on the future of neurosurgery.

Prof. Michael Jenkinson

SBNS Vice President  
for Research & Innovation





## SBNS Spring Meeting, Belfast

The SBNS Spring meeting, held at the International Conference Centre in Belfast and was a great success, and this was largely due to the high calibre of the guest speakers, the quality of the abstract presentations, the hospitality of our Hosts from The Royal Victoria Hospital, and last, but no means least, the beautiful location and the unusually good weather for March.

### Day 1

The meeting opened with a Lifelong Learning Session on craniocervical covering congenital defects, tumours and chiari malformation. Our Lifelong Learning Sessions are a regular feature of our meetings and are the perfect opportunity for our delegates to find out about the latest innovations from experts in the field and to add to their continued professional development. The Session was chaired by our hosts, Nikolay Peev & Neil Simms with contributions from an array of renowned international speakers.



L-R: Nikolay Peev, Prof Salma Sharif, Prof Massimiliano Visocchi, Lilyana Angelov MD, Prof Joachim Oertel, Hassan Syed MD and Neil Simms

In the afternoon the Sir Victor Horsley Lecture entitled "Spinal Intramedullary Surgery: Operative nuances" was delivered by Roy McConnell, a senior consultant from the host unit. This was followed by a Hot Topic session covering Neurosurgical Networks, The Future of Neurosurgery and an update on our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting taking place in October 2026.



Roy McConnell from the Host Unit



Nathan R. Seldon - SNS President

The Welcome Reception was held at the Ulster Museum, where our delegates had the opportunity to network, catch up with colleagues and friends whilst learning something about the history of Belfast.

### Day 2

Thursday morning kicked off with an early morning fun run round the local area, the emphasis was on "fun", you didn't have to be Usain Bolt to take part. Those who did take part were feeling rejuvenated and raring to go for the first round of Free Paper sessions, Trauma with Oncology in parallel. This was followed by the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture entitled "The Rhetoric of Medicine – Lessons on Professionalism from Ancient Greece" which was delivered by Nathan R. Seldon, President of the Society of Neurological Surgeons of America.

In the afternoon there was a very insightful Global Neurosurgery session with speakers from USA, Nepal, one of our Caribbean Fellowship candidates, and some abstract submissions which covered a wide range of topics - training, research, Trauma and the Global Epidemiology and Outcomes following Traumatic Brain Injury (GEO-TBI) registry. The SBNS runs a highly successful Global Initiative Programme [click here to find out more](#).

More on page 20 & 21!



## SBNS Spring Meeting, Belfast

The day ended with the Gala dinner in the Titanic Suite of the Titanic Museum. We dined in a replica of the ship's ballroom along with its famous wooden staircase, designed and built in Belfast. We could not visit the city where this iconic ship was built and not pay homage to it. It was a wonderful evening, delicious food, good company, music, and dancing. After dinner the SBNS Medal was awarded, by the President to Alan Crockard who formerly worked at the National Hospital in London for his contribution to neurosurgery.



Dr Saugat Bhattacharyya

### Day 3

The morning began with a workshop hosted by the Society's Journal, the British Journal of Neurosurgery and chaired by its Editor, Nitin Mukerji. It covered evaluating papers and critically reviewing ones with statistical flaws. It was of great interest to authors, reviewers and associate editors and was immensely popular with our delegates. The BNJS will be running another workshop at our Spring meeting in Harrogate in April 2026.

Our final eponymous Lecture, the Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture, was delivered by Dr Saugat Bhattacharyya who gave a fascinating talk on "Advancing Personalized Neurorehabilitation through Brain-Computer Interfaces".

The SBNS would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the SBNS Spring meeting in Belfast, our hosts at the Royal Victoria Hospital, our invited guests from the Society of



Our Hosts from Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast – they scrubbed up well!

Neurological Surgeons of America, Nathan Selden and Richard Byrne, the numerous plenary speakers who headed up the free paper session, abstract presenters and our industry sponsors for their valuable support. The feedback from the delegates and sponsors was wonderful.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the next SBNS Meeting which will be held in Bristol and hosted by our colleagues at Southmead Hospital, Bristol and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.

Our invited guests are the Hellenic Neurosurgical Society, and the Neuromodulation Society of UK and Ireland will be hosting a satellite day on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The Lifelong Learning Session will be on Theatre Culture and Team Dynamics. All are welcome to submit abstracts and attend.



### Best Oral

#### Hassan Othman

Do AI Chatbots Assist in Obtaining Informed Consent for Spinal Surgery



### Best Short Oral

#### Mohammadi Maahtaab

Utility of Artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in Intraoperative Raman Spectroscopy (IRS) and Stimulated Raman Histology (SRH) for near real-time diagnosis in Central nervous system (CNS) Tumour Surgery-A Scoping Review



### Best Electronic Poster

#### Victoria Collins

Coexisting Arteriovenous Fistula and Spinal Lipoma: A Systematic Review and Illustrative Case Report



## Photo Gallery, SBNS Belfast Meeting 2025

### Norman Dott winners



Pandu Seetahal – 2023



Lauren Harris – 2024

Lauren was the first female to win the prestigious medal since it was introduced in 1995

### Prize & Essay Winners from the Birmingham Meeting



Daniel Thompson



Mohammad Ashraf



Emma Toma



Munashe Veremu



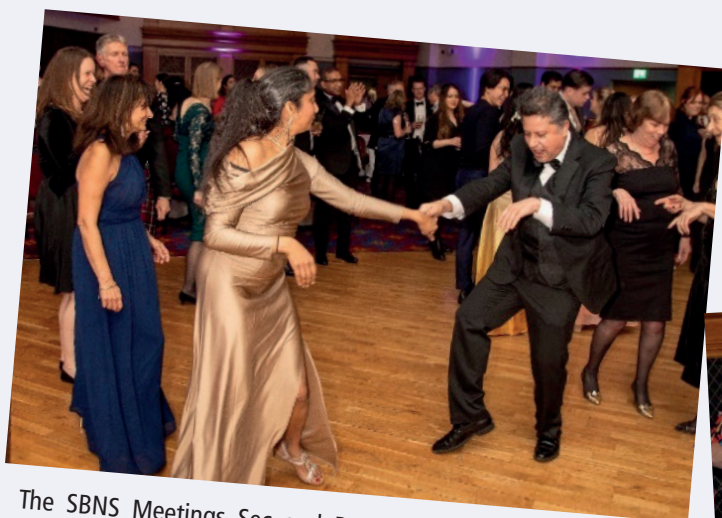
Everyone wanted their photo on the famous Titanic staircase – I think they enjoyed the evening







A thank you to the SBNS Admin Team – we thought organising the meeting in Belfast was great craic!



Prof. Bolger singing for his supper

The SBNS Meetings Sec and Prof. Ashkan letting their hair down on the dance floor



## Recordings and Presentations



If you missed any of the sessions presented at the Belfast Meeting or want a second viewing the recordings are now available via the Talking Slides site.

Simply access the site through the link below:

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

To view the photos taken at the meeting [CLICK HERE](#).

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

John Murray

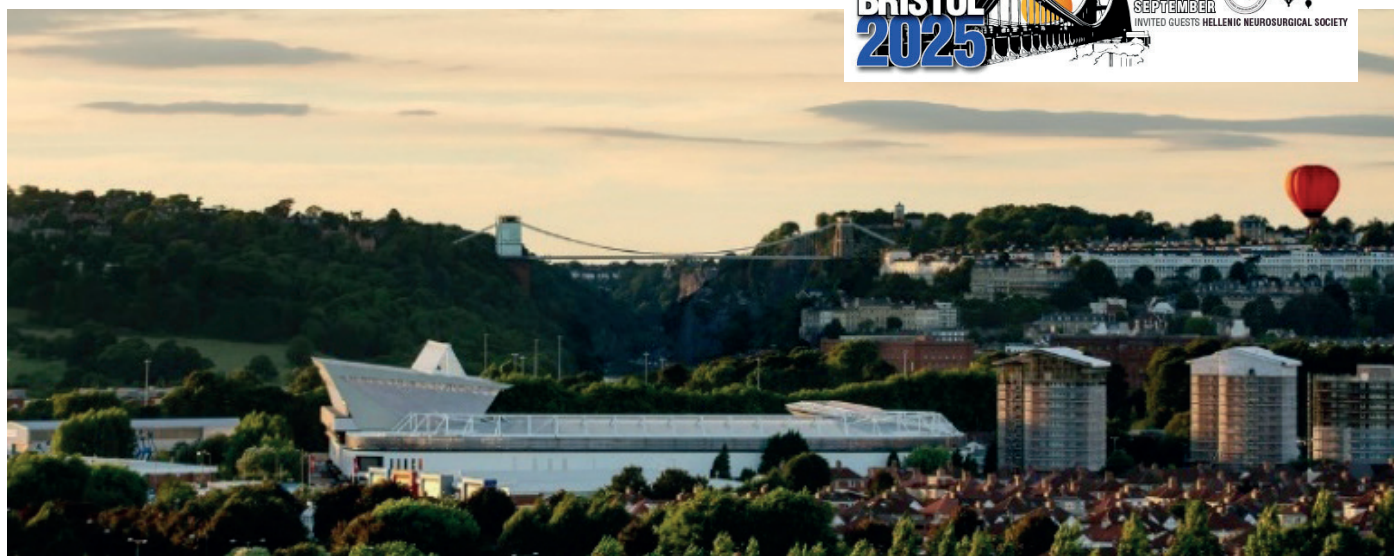
07804 610 179

[john@pnjphotography.com](mailto:john@pnjphotography.com)





## SBNS Bristol 2025



Our colleagues at Southmead Hospital, Bristol and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children look forward to welcoming you the SBNS Autumn meeting in September. The conference will be held at Ashton Gate Stadium which has excellent facilities for the academic programme and exhibition. A shuttle bus service will be provided from the dedicated conference hotels, The Delta by Marriott and The Leonardo Hotel Bristol City.

On Tuesday, 23 September, prior to the Main SBNS Meeting, the Neuromodulation Society of UK and Ireland (NSUKI) in conjunction with the SBNS will be hosting a satellite day to discuss what Neuromodulation can be offered for chronic pain conditions and who to refer to where surgery is not an option Attendance for this satellite day is FREE, but pre-registration is required via the registration link for the main meeting.

The Main SBNS Meeting will commence on Wednesday 24 September, with a Lifelong Learning Session on 'Theatre Culture and Team Dynamics'. Everyone involved in all aspects of working in this environment would benefit from attending: nurses, surgeons, anaesthetists and general theatre staff. Our Lifelong Learning sessions are a regular feature of our meetings and are a perfect opportunity for delegates at all levels in their career to find out about new advances, techniques, teamworking

and add to their continued professional development. The Neurosurgical Nurses Network are also planning on having a session, following the success of the one they ran in Birmingham. Please encourage your theatre nurses and allied health workers to attend. We offer two FREE places per unit to Allied Health workers. Please contact the SBNS Office for more details.

The Hot Topic Sessions will cover Safe Neurosurgery and Training - Comparing UK and Greek options.

The remainder of the programme will cover all aspects of neurosurgery. We have a great line up of esteemed UK and international speakers. The Hellenic Neurosurgical Society will also be joining the meeting as our invited guests and contributing to the programme. Their President, Moschos Fratzoglou, will be delivering one of our eponymous lectures and several of their nominated members will be delivering plenary talks. As usual, there will be free paper sessions, posters, breakfast seminars



and much more, all carefully designed to create a unique and enjoyable educational experience.

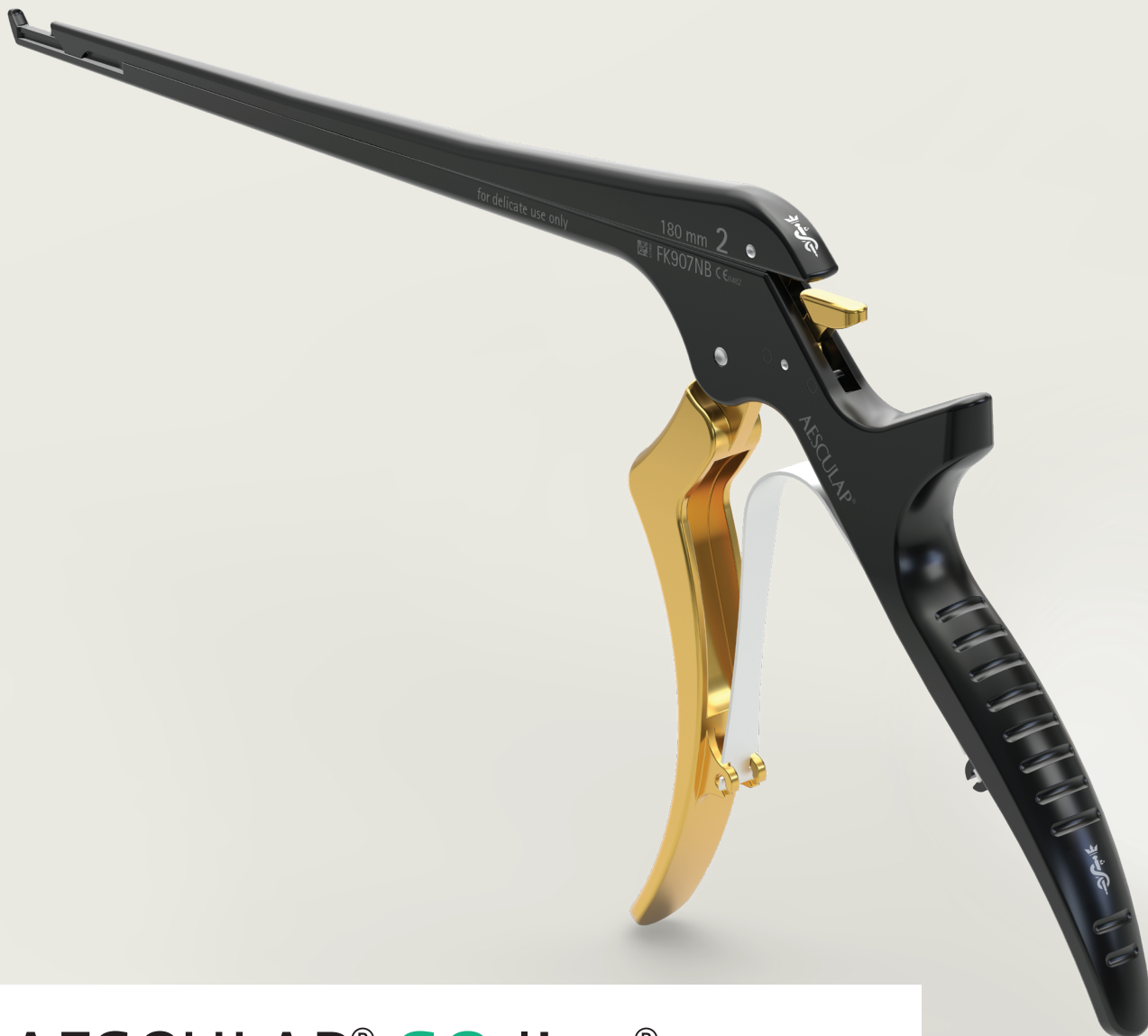
To complement the academic programme, we have some wonderful social events planned. The Welcome Reception will be on board SS Great Britain and the Gala Dinner will be at Aerospace Bristol under the wings of Concorde, the famous supersonic passenger jet.



The SBNS AGM will be held on Thursday afternoon - the agenda and papers will be emailed to members prior to the event. The BNTA will also run their business meeting in parallel.

To find out more about the event, register and book accommodation please visit the Bristol Conference page (<https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/bristol-2025.html>).

The hosts and SBNS meetings committee look forward to welcoming you to Bristol in September.



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# A Spotlight on Aesculap Academy Paediatric Events



## Fundamentals of Paediatric Neurosurgery Course



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>  
September 2025**



**B. Braun Medical Ltd,  
Thorncliffe Park, Sheffield**

Paediatric neurosurgical rotations or on-calls can be challenging for junior trainees due to limited exposure.

Attend to gain a solid foundation in managing paediatric patients effectively and to maximise your learning during this critical training period.

### Programme highlights include:

- In-depth case based discussions covering a wide range of paediatric neurosurgical conditions
- Practical hands-on workshops designed to enhance your skills in Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy (ETV), ultrasound techniques and more.

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your place



## 1<sup>st</sup> Edition – Operative Paediatric Neurosurgery – Cadaveric Course



**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



**Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge**

Join us for immersive hands-on workshops, featuring advanced techniques in paediatric neurosurgery:

- Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy (ETV) and pineal region biopsy
- Telovelar approach to the fourth ventricle
- Transtentorial approach

These sessions offer a valuable opportunity to refine your skills and deepen your understanding through expert-led, practical training.

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# Aesculap Academy Neurosurgery Events 2025/2026



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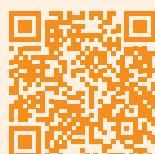


## Fundamentals of Paediatric Neurosurgery Course

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Sheffield

## Mastering the Art of Neurosurgical On-Call

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Glasgow



## 1<sup>st</sup> Edition – Operative Paediatric Neurosurgery – Cadaveric Course

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Cambridge

Scan or click the QR codes below to join our waiting list!



## British Skull Base Society Meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026  
Stoke-on-Trent

## British Neurovascular Group Meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
London



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# Dates for your diary



## SBNS MEETINGS



### SBNS Autumn Meeting 2025

23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol  
Registration now open!

### British Neurological Research Group (BNRG) Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Royal College of Surgeons, London

Partnering with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Neurological Innovation and Technology Symposium; and the RCSEng Neurological Clinical Trials Team



### SBNS/BNRG Spring Meeting 2026

14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate  
Abstract line open in September

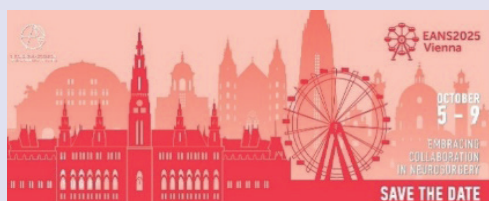
### SBNS100

The SBNS will be celebrating its 100 year Anniversary in 2026 and we plan to have a celebratory meeting in place of our Autumn meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 in London. Mark your diaries!

We plan to invite International Neurosurgical Societies and other neuro science groups/associations and showcase what the SBNS has achieved over the past 100 years.



## EXTERNAL MEETINGS



### EANS 2025

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Vienna, Austria



### ICSD 2025

8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
De Vere Beaumont Estate,  
Old Windsor



### EANS-NESON International Conference 2025

13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Hyatt Regency Kathmandu,  
Kathmandu, Nepal

This meeting has been endorsed by the SBNS and SBNS members are encouraged to attend.

Details for these meetings and various other meetings and courses please visit the Conference pages on and [Dates for your Diary Section](#) on the SBNS website (<http://www.sbns.org.uk/>).

The SBNS Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS colleagues. Contributions are welcome for the next issue due out in December 2025, content will be required by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.



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