

SBNS Bursary Report:

Oral Presentation - European Association of Neurosurgical Societies Conference

Duranka Perera

I would like to thank the SBNS for their support in my attendance at the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) Congress 2025 in Vienna, Austria.

This is the second EANS conference SBNS have kindly supported me in attending. Across the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October, a range of talks was held that spanned the entire specialty. I was able to attend talks that covered the use of AI in Spinal Surgery, neuro-oncology and the latest updates in sports concussion science to name just a few. Special mention must go to the keynote speech by Dr Robert Spetzler, which drew a full house as he reflected on an exemplary career in neurovascular surgery, as well as the multitude of different technologies various companies presented. I was particularly keen to see how augmented reality could assist with spinal screw placement, which was highly clinically relevant given the clinical need for accuracy in such surgeries. As a consultant, I would be keen on implementing these technologies in my own unit where able. This speaks to the value of attending conferences to hear and witness the latest advances in the field.

As for myself, I presented my abstract entitled '*Patient and Public Involvement Engagement in Neurosurgery*'. I believe that this is the first systematic review ever conducted of the international literature to ascertain the true extent of patient acknowledgement and contribution to the research we present at these conferences. Not only was it very meaningful to present this work, the product of many hours of data collection and analysis, but it was great to network with likeminded individuals who were part of their own PPIE groups across the continent, driving research forward. It was particularly meaningful as well to present this presentation on behalf of the neurosurgery education charity I run, Brainbook, for which PPIE and improving access to the specialty is a central tenet.

The meeting was also great for community building. I not only supported friends making their own presentations and met colleagues from my own unit in charge of their own committees, but I also made many new friends from across Europe. Vienna also happens to be where one of my favourite movies – Before Sunrise – was filmed; it was great to make time to tour the sights and scenes (many of which remained unchanged from the mid-nineties) in between presentations and workshops.