



Newsletter December 2025

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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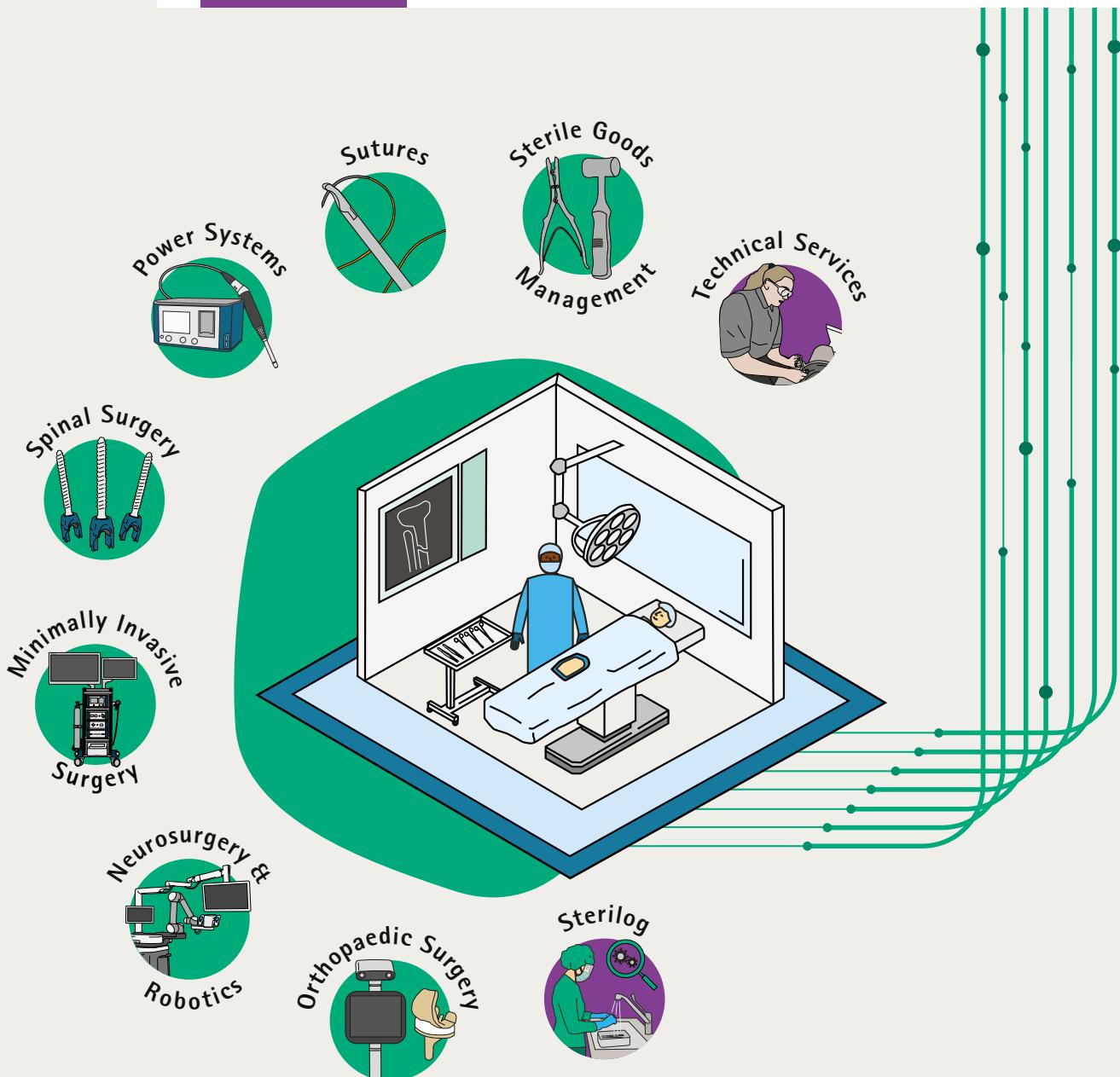


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A Message from the President



Peter Hutchinson, SBNS President

Dear Friends,

As 2025 draws to a close (I cannot believe how quickly the months have flown by!) and we enter 2026 I am pleased to share a reflection of the society's events and activities and update on plans for next year.

2025 was a very active year for meetings of the Society progressing our theme of joint SBNS conferences, supporting the subspeciality meetings and promoting the Society at international conferences. These included visiting Belfast and Bristol for our Society meetings

with international guests (from the USA and Greece), with high scientific pedigree and entertaining social events relating to transport including the Titanic Museum, SS Great Britain and Concorde! Nationally the society has contributed to the British Neuroscience Association meeting in Liverpool and the Neuro Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society in Cambridge. Internationally the society has been

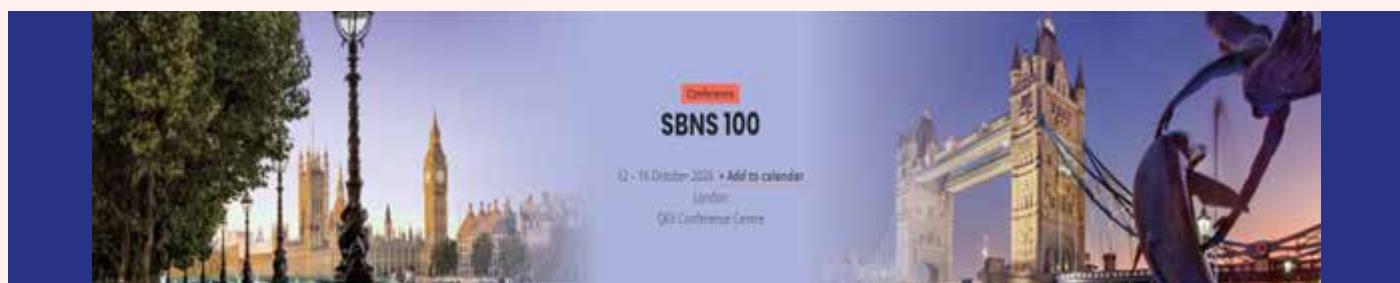
represented at meetings of the Sri Lankan Society in Colombo, the Nepalese Society in Kathmandu, the EANS in Vienna, the AANS in Boston and the CNS in Los Angeles. Going forwards we plan to continue our theme of inviting other national societies to our bi-annual society meetings.

I have just attended the BNRG meeting in London- an excellent showcase for the future of neurosurgery in terms of basic and translational science, clinical trials and advances in technology. Our Spring meeting (15th –17th April 2026) in Harrogate will be a joint SBNS/BNRG meeting. The subspecialty meetings continue to thrive with too many to mention them all, but I am grateful to Matt Radatz and his colleagues in Sheffield for the invitation to represent the Society at the 40th Anniversary of Stereotactic Neurosurgery in Sheffield where it was pleasure to meet up again with David Forster after many years.

2026 is the Society's centenary. Members of the Society and specifically 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) are working hard on the scientific and social programme. SBNS100 is being held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in Westminster Central London from 12th to 16th October 2026 with plenary and multiple parallel sessions with many international guests confirmed and attendance from other societies including the



The BNRG Meeting 8th - 9th December 2025 at the RCS Eng.



Association of British Neurologists, Joint Neuroscience Council, Neuro Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society, British Association of Day Surgery, BASS, BNOS and the British Neuropathological Society).

SBNS 100 will be held across a variety of London venues in addition to the QEII conference centre, including the Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum, an exhibition of Neurosurgery at the Royal Society of Medicine and visits to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons.

The 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) are both progressing well.

Please invite your colleagues to promote the SBNS100 meeting, a PowerPoint slide can be downloaded from the SBNS100 webpage or you can contact Suzanne at the SBNS office (admin@sbsns.org.uk).

The British Journal of Neurosurgery is also playing a crucial role in the centenary activities with special editions planned - thank you to our Editor-in-Chief Nitin Mukerji who continues to drive the journal from strength to strength.

We have a fundraising campaign to support the training and research activities of the Society as it enters its next centenary - the SBNS Patron Appeal and are grateful to colleagues who have become SBNS Patrons. If you are interested in becoming a Patron, please visit the Patron page on the SBNS website or scan the QR Code to donate.

Within the Federation of Specialist Surgical Associations (FSSA), the SBNS has a reputation for excellence in global neurosurgery which continues to flourish. The SBNS Global Committee is led by Nigel Mendoza with members Alistair Jenkins, Chris Barrett, Simon Thomson, Peter Whitfield, Iona Jenkins, Moody Qureshi and Rosa Sun. We are extremely grateful to the Alan and Diana Karter Fund (thank you to Alistair Jenkins) and Barrow Foundation (thank you to Simon Thomson) which between them have contributed c.£2m to the Global activity of the SBNS including supporting fellowships (UK to Low-middle income country and vice-versa) and to the NIHR for a c.£3m grant for the Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury. Activities include strategies for prevention, pathways of care, capacity building, delivering RCTs and rehabilitation. We will be attending the World Health Assembly Geneva in May 2026, continuing advocating for traumatic brain injury as a notifiable disease.

We also work closely with the Global Surgery Policy Unit at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the EANS and the WFNS (represented by Sanjeeva Jeyaretna and Tina Karabatsou who has now ended her term - thank you Tina! - and replaced by Pragnesh Bhatt). While the EANS continues to flourish and now with a new President Francesco Sala - a good friend of the SBNS who attended the Edinburgh meeting - we are hoping it is the beginning of the end for the turmoil in the WFNS and are very grateful to Peter Whitfield for standing as Assistant treasurer to bring a voice of reason which is desperately needed.

Academic and research activity within Society continues to be strong and we are grateful to the academic committee led by Paul Brennan and managed by Carole Turner for providing excellent support to society members. In fact, British neurosurgery continues to punch well above its weight in terms of research output, but we recognise that publishing alone albeit in high impact journals is the start of a process. Research results, particularly trials need to influence guidelines and change practice.



A Message from the President

The future of neurosurgery initiative run by Michael Jenkinson is leading on this concept not only within neurosurgery but across surgery aligned to the Royal College of Surgeons of England Clinical Research Initiative. The future of neurosurgery strategy also promotes the growth of new technology within clinical neuroscience. This year we have appointed a second neurosurgical specialty lead, Aminul Ahmed, focusing on spinal research.

We recognize the challenges of delivering safe and effective neurosurgical care in the current climate of the National Health Service and in this regard, Council have supported a new iteration of Safe Neurosurgery to follow on from the previous report at the turn of the century. This is an important initiative that is aligned to the activity of the National Neurosurgery Audit Programme led by Adel Helmy and Adam Williams, which in addition to presenting unit reports is now working across a portfolio of specific registries and audits. Also aligned to safe neurosurgery is the excellent work on workforce planning by Kat Whitehouse and guidelines including the NICE guidelines for which Nihal Gurusinghe continues to provide excellent leadership for the Society, and particularly a response to the NICE lumbar puncture subarachnoid hemorrhage guideline with formal published evidence produced by society members.

2025 was a significant year in terms of the future of the National Health Service with the government announcement that NHS England is being disbanded. I am grateful to Andy King for representing the society on the CRG with a complex landscape of both local commissioning via ICBs and centralised commissioning aligned to three levels of conditions. The low volume high complexity MDTs for Chordoma and ECIC bypass have been awarded to Manchester and Queen Square respectively.

One of the privileges of this role is interaction with the trainees including attendance at the various simulation camps. This year I have been fortunate to attend the ST1 camp in Preston, ST3 camp in Coventry and ST7/8 finishing school in Bristol, all of which were excellent and I would like to thank many members of the society who have been involved in delivering these camps. They are under financial threat, and we are working with the FSSA to help secure funding in the future.

The SAC, under the skillful leadership of Donald MacArthur, has played a crucial role in supporting training. I would also like to thank Rosa Sun for her ongoing excellent leadership of the BNTA and the contributions that the BNTRC make to neurosurgical research. NANSIG is also a strong organisation, providing a forum for budding neurosurgeons. Support for the membership continues to be delivered by both mentoring led by Ian Kamaly and the support line provided by Emily Borhan.

In addition to core activity there are several other initiatives and activities being undertaken by the Society which include contributions to the future of the Prioritization service, future of simulation camp funding, Urgent and Emergency Care standards and medical training review. Much of this activity is common with the other surgical specialist associations and we are working together through the FSSA to advocate for the delivery for the ongoing delivery of safe and effective surgery.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues on the Senior Executive Committee (Nigel Mendoza, Surajit Basu, Crispin Wigfield, Michael Jenkinson, Sam Hettige), the admin team (Suzanne Murray, Alix Gordon, Carole Turner), Council, and you as members of a vibrant neurosurgical community that continues to uphold the highest standards of clinical excellence and innovation. Your contributions—through clinical service, training, research and advocacy—strengthen the shared mission of the SBNS to improve outcomes for patients across the UK and beyond.

On behalf of the SBNS Council, I extend warmest wishes to you and your families for a joyful festive season and a healthy, fulfilling 2026 ahead.

With best wishes,

Prof. Peter Hutchinson

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

Welcome New Members

The following new members had their membership ratified at the last AGM in Bristol 2025.

Full

Jahard Aliaga Arias
Alexander Boukas
Andrew Dapaah
Theodore Hirst
Lena Mary Houlihan
Mohammed Ben Husien
Marie Krueger
Khalid Mohmoud
Fatmeh Zahraa Noureldin
Nisaharan Srikandarajah
Richard Stacey
Adrian Zammit

Affiliated

Jaifar Alomairi
Naemi Bechtloff
Bilal Benzahia
Tamanna Bostani
Emily Boyd
George-Paul Byrne
Jackson Cheung
Leslie Cheung
Proma Dey
Aya Elshalakany
Alastair Leslie-Dakers
Saumya Maheshwari
Zuhair Noori
Shaan Patel
Andrew Poxon
Mohammad Saleem Saleemi
Anirudh Seenivasan
Adnan Wahab
Helen Williams

Consultant High-Income

Fakhar Hayat
Lewis O'Brien
Jackson Tsz Shun Cheung

Consultant Lower Middle-Income

Professor Abdul Aziz Khan Aziz Khan
Mabel Banson

Associate

Mohammad Ashraf
Christopher Cooper
Francisca Ferreira
Damilola Jesuyajolu
Ramy Kayello
Howra Kyatayen
Antonia Malli
Amol Mittal
Vindhya Prasad
Panduranga Seetahal-Maraj
Joseph Shehata
Jayaruban Sivakumaran
Olivier Sluijters
Inga Usher

Senior

Munchi Choksey
Nijaguna Mathad
Gerry O'Reilly

International

Masahito Katsuki
Conor Kennedy
Muhammad Khizar Hayat
Kang Lu
Muhammad Muzaffer Uddin

Membership Subscription Increase - Reminder

As announced earlier in the year the SBNS membership fees will be increasing in January 2026. We have not increased the fees since 2013 and costs to run the Society have steadily risen over that time.

	Current fee	New 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

If you pay by Direct Debit, you will not need to do anything, if you pay by card each year then you will be sent a reminder from the system.

If you have any queries about your membership, please contact Alix Gordon, admin2@sbns.org.uk or Suzanne Murray for any other issues relating to the SBNS - we are here to help.

New Appointments



Pragnesh Bhatt – EANS WFNS Rep

I am grateful to my friends and members of the SBNS to elect me to this very important role of representing our society at the EANS as well as at the WFNS. I am looking forward to working closely with Sanjeeva Jeyaretna and other council members to make the most of this opportunity to be an ambassador of British Neurosurgery especially when we are about to celebrate centenary of our society next year.

I would be keen to engage with the entire membership of the SBNS to represent their views and can be contacted via central office or through direct email to Pragnesh.Bhatt@nhs.scot



Kevin Tsang – SAC Chair

I became a neurosurgery consultant in 2014 and joined SAC in 2019 and really enjoyed working with trainees and trainers across the country. I'm honoured to succeed Mr MacArthur as the new SAC Chair in February 2026 and look forward to leading our committee in supporting the JCST and SBNS to continue improving on the system that has been built. Tremendous amounts of work have been on-going, and our committee will continue with what we are best at – listening to all our trainees and trainers and advising the best ways to improve on training standards according to current needs.

I have already liaised with the BNTA Chair and their representatives as well as all our SAC Liaison members and I am very lucky to have the support of such an enthusiastic cohort of professionals. Please do continue to feedback about training in your respective regions via your TPD, your SAC Liaison member and via the GMC and JCST surveys (both trainees and trainers). Only with all the data can we make accurate plans to move forward. I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the future!



Prof. Donncha O'Brien – National Clinical Advisor in Neurosurgery for the RCSI

We are pleased to announce that Professor Donncha O'Brien, Consultant Neurosurgeon in Dublin has been appointed as National Clinical Advisor in Neurosurgery for the RCSI National Clinical Programme in Surgery.

Click [here](#) to find out more about his role.



Peter Whitfield – WFNS Assistant Treasurer

Peter Whitfield, former SBNS President is appointed as Assistant Treasurer of the WFNS at the recent WFNS Annual meeting in Dubai.

Despite a very successful WFNS Congress in Cape Town in 2023, the last few years have seen turbulence, including ongoing legal action from the Spanish Society and disparate opinions between the Administrative Committee and the President of the WFNS. In response to these difficulties, the SBNS wrote to the WFNS President in 2024 and, given an absence of response, suspended our membership.

The WFNS should be able to unite neurosurgeons around the world to provide advocacy, support clinical networking, lead educational initiatives and promote global research. With the support of the SBNS, Peter Whitfield successfully stood for election to the Administrative Committee of the WFNS, as Assistant Treasurer on 1st December 2025. Hopefully Peter's appointment will help refresh the WFNS and enable the Society to move forward with positivity.

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

Call for Nominations – Expression of Interest

National Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP) is looking to appoint a fellow to help administer and run the programme. This is ideally suited to a neurosurgical trainee with an interest in pursuing a higher degree in data science and service development. This is jointly supervised with the Royal College of Surgeons, Clinical Effectiveness Unit.

If any prospective applicants are interested taking up this position in August 2026, please could they contact either the current fellow, Daniel Thompson (daniel.thompson@nbt.nhs.uk), or Adel Helmy (adel.helmy@nhs.net) the current NNAP Chair.



Fresh Tissue And Whole Genome Sequencing: Call To Action



Following Professor Kathreena Kurian and Professor Michael Jenkinson talk in the 'Hot Topics' session at the Bristol SBNS on tissue handling and whole-genome sequencing, Professor Kathreena Kurian writes in The Telegraph about long waits — up to five months — for brain tumour test results. She urges centres to freeze tumour tissue at surgery to enable advanced genetic testing and calls for quicker, fairer diagnostics and clearer communication with patients about sample use. Fresh tissue and molecular data are critical to future precision medicine trials.

[Click here](#) to view The Telegraph article. [Click here](#) to view the academic paper.

Prof Michael Jenkinson,
SBNS Vice Chair for Innovation

Sad Farewell



Nitin Patel, Consultant Neurosurgeon, North Bristol NHS Trust
22nd November 1963 – 14th September 2025

Nitin Patel was born in Nairobi, Kenya to parents of Gujarati origin. He enjoyed his early years in Africa growing up with his sister and was very proud of his heritage. In 1972 he came to live with family members in Leicester and attended local schools. Despite having somewhat less privileged earlier years and education than many peers, he was supported to achieve good grades at A level and received a place to study medicine at Cardiff University. In Wales he enjoyed both the academic and social opportunities in full! Having committed to a career in surgery he moved to Leeds with an ambition of becoming an ophthalmologist. However, he soon saw the light and in 1993 moved to Frenchay Hospital in Bristol to join the training scheme in Neurosurgery. He never looked back. He fell in love with neurosurgery, Bristol and a short time later with Kelly who subsequently became his wife.

He found himself in an environment of innovation with supportive and inspirational colleagues including Huw Griffith, Brian Cummins, Hugh Coakham, Rick Nelson, Steve Gill and David Sandeman. He learnt from them the ability and courage to challenge conventional wisdom and embrace new concepts and technologies. As a young registrar

he was the first trainee in UK to get hands on experience with a new technology – neuronavigation (IHG viewing wand).

However, this presented an opportunity for Nitin to innovate – he soon realised that a trajectory guide to facilitate biopsy was required, so he designed one and had it manufactured out of high-quality stainless steel via engineers he discovered in Bristol. The 'Patel Ball' soon came into everyday practice and was the earliest version of a device that many of us use frequently today.

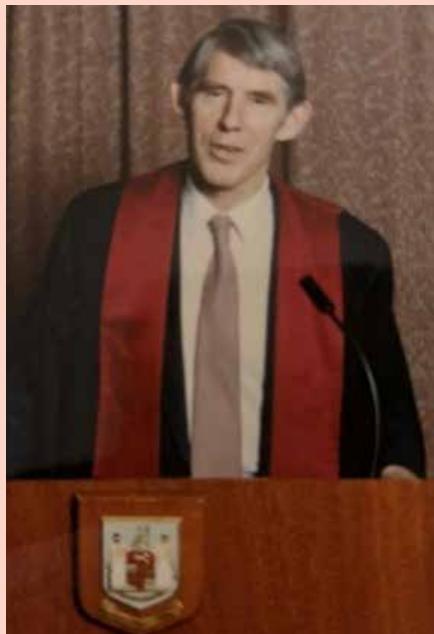
He was appointed as Consultant Neurosurgeon in Bristol in 2000, after a year away in Melbourne, with a sub-specialist interest in neuro-oncology. However, his path changed after colleagues, appreciating his interest in oncology and surgical skills in spinal surgery, soon asked him to take on many challenging cases of spinal tumours, chordomas and metastases. He was essentially self-taught in complex spinal surgery; testament to his inherent surgical ability, anatomical knowledge and thirst for innovation, he developed and pioneered novel approaches to the spine with lesser morbidity, reduced complications and better outcomes. This ultimately led to the development of his trans-facet trans-pedicular approach to the ventral thoracic spine, including central thoracic discs. This was to be the subject of the Sir Victor Horsley lecture opening the SBNS Autumn meeting on 24th September until his unexpected, tragic and sudden death 10 days before it. His extensive preparation fortunately meant that his colleague Crispin Wigfield was able to deliver it on his behalf – please watch it here [SBNS Online Archive](#).

Nitin was an incredibly welcoming and sociable character, inviting his colleagues, trainees, and international visitors into his family home frequently. He was passionate for training of the next generation, as anyone who worked with him will acknowledge with gratitude. He enjoyed many activities outside work including photography – his pictures having been displayed in North Bristol Trust recently and even featured on the front cover of *World Neurosurgery*. Please enjoy his Instagram page Nitin Patel ([@nitinphoto1](#)).

Nitin leaves his beloved wife Kelly, his children Roshan and Jai, his mother and sister who, along with his many friends, will miss him enormously but are grateful for the opportunity to have known such an incredible person.

Paul Grundy

Sad Farewell



Gordon Brocklehurst ('Brock') 1932-2025

Gordon qualified in medicine from Cambridge and Guy's (1956) and was appointed Neurosurgical Registrar at Addenbrooke's under John Gleave. He moved to The London as Senior Registrar to Tom King. Gordon's primary interest was in CSF pathways and Spina Bifida. In 1968 he successfully defended a thesis entitled "The significance of the pathogenesis of Spina Bifida to its treatment" M Chir Cambridge. He then worked for 3 and a half years at the University of Kentucky as Assistant Professor. In 1972 he joined Norman Guthkelch in Hull when Bernard Williams moved to Birmingham. Norman had pioneered British Paediatric Neurosurgery in Hull. Gordon and Michael Gooding worked a 1:2 rota for over 20 years before I was appointed as a third Neurosurgeon in 1994.

In 1973 Gordon won the Hugh Cairns Memorial essay prize and presented a related paper "The Foramen of Magendie". In 1975 he received an MRC grant for research into the evolution of CSF pathways culminating in a Cambridge MD (1981) on the evolution of the CSF system. In 1976 he edited a multi-authored book entitled "Spina Bifida for the Clinician" (William Heinemann LTD ISBN 0 433 04410 1).

By 1982 Gordon's interests included the use of lasers in surgery. He was the first Neurosurgeon to use a CO₂ laser in the UK and later adopted the YAG laser. Lasers are now widely used in eye and endoscopic neurosurgical procedures. In 1992 Gordon delivered the Hunterian lecture (picture) at the RCS on the use of the Neodymium YAG laser and photodynamic therapy in the treatment of gliomas. In 1992 he also organised a joint SBNS meeting in Hull, with the German Society, during Douglas Miller's SBNS presidency.

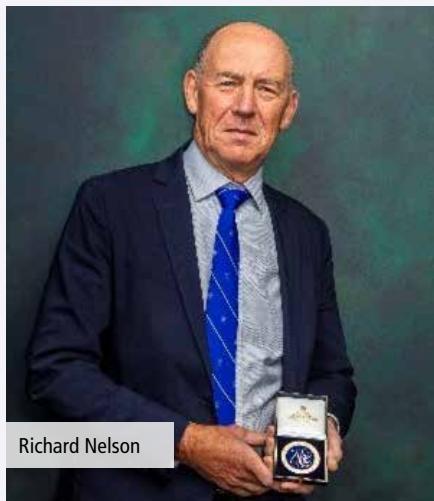
'Brock' was rather unconventional at times. Nevertheless, and often consequently, he was much appreciated and will be fondly remembered by many of his patients, trainees and colleagues. Brock's energy, productivity and integrity was remarkable. His devotion to patients was legendary. In his spare time Gordon ran marathons, raising large sums of money for neurosurgical innovation. He lived to the age of 93 and survived by his amazing wife Hilary and a full quiver of children and grandchildren.

[Brock's autobiography](#) – available on Amazon

Bruce Mathew

Congratulations

SBNS Medal



Richard Nelson

Richard Nelson, or Rick, as he was more affectionately known, was presented with the SBNS Medal at the Gala Dinner at the SBNS Autumn meeting in Bristol last September in recognition of this contribution to British Neurosurgery and the SBNS. Rick was a former SBNS President, and the driving force behind the run through training curriculum and the SBNS Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP). He was also Chair of the SAC; a member of the RCS England Invited Review Mechanism and a reviewer for the DVLA.

In summary, Rick Nelson's efforts have benefitted neurosurgical trainees, trainers, established and early career consultants, raised quality standards, protected patients and helped to ensure robust foundations for British Neurosurgery in the 21st Century. He is now enjoying his well-earned retirement.

The next SBNS Medal will be presented to Barrie White, Consultant Neurosurgeon from Nottingham at the Gala Dinner at the SBNS Spring meeting in Harrogate.

Vilhelm Magnus Medal

Prof. Michael Jenkinson (Jenks) received the prestigious Vilhelm Magnus Medal after delivering the Vilhelm Magnus Memorial Lecture in Oslo. He and his team, from the



Vilhelm Magnus Medal - Awarded to SBNS Vice President for Innovations, Prof. Michael Jenkinson

University of Liverpool and The Walton Centre Department of Neurosurgery, were singled out for work in recognition of his efforts to improve neurosurgical treatment outcomes, particularly in the field of neuro-oncology and clinical trials. The award, often described as the "Nobel Prize of Neurosurgery" was presented to him by the Norwegian Neurosurgical Association in Oslo on 23rd October 2025.

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) Honorary Chairs

We are pleased to announce that two neurosurgeons were awarded MAHSC Honorary Chairs this August, Konstantina (Tina) Karabatsou and Kanna Gnanalingham. The MAHSC Honorary Clinical Chairs are awarded on an annual basis by The University of Manchester's Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health Promotions Committee. They are awarded to individuals who have made a major contribution to their clinical specialty, including excellence in research and education.



Professor Konstantina (Tina) Karabatsou

Professor Konstantina (Tina) Karabatsou, is a Consultant Neurosurgeon & Clinical Lead for Neuro-oncology in Manchester and former SBNS EANS/WFNS representative. Tina led the Neuro-oncology team in being awarded the prestigious status of designated Centre of Excellence by the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission. She is also the lead clinician for cranial neurofibromatosis type 1, as part of one of the two UK centrally commissioned multidisciplinary services.

"I am truly humbled and beyond thrilled to have received this recognition and would like to thank everyone that supported me in this journey".



Professor Kanna Gnanalingham

Professor Kanna Gnanalingham is a clinical academic neurosurgeon who specialises in pituitary and spinal surgery. He is a leader in minimally invasive techniques, and introduced endoscopic pituitary surgery in Manchester in 2005 which transformed outcomes with shorter hospital stays and significantly improved cure rates in

acromegaly and Cushing's disease. Under his leadership, Manchester has become the UK's largest pituitary centre, with outcomes comparable to the best worldwide.

Congratulations Professors Karabatsou and Gnanalingham – well deserved awards.



Ms Saba Rose Raza-Knight

Norman Dott Medal & Senior Barrow Award

Ms Saba Rose Raza-Knight MRCSEng was selected as recipient of the Norman Dott Medal following her outstanding performance at the October 2025 examination in Aberdeen.

The medal was first awarded in 1995, and previous winners have all gone on to be high achievers in Neurosurgery. As well as receiving the Medal Saba will also receive the Senior Barrow Award which comprises a visit to the Barrow Institute, Phoenix, Arizona, for up to 6 weeks and an opportunity to attend the AANS congress. Expenses are paid up to a maximum of £5,000! Saba is the 2nd female (in a row) to win the medal which is a great achievement as both female winners had young children to contend with whilst studying and working.

Saba is an ST7 trainee based in Manchester. Following her MB PhD in developmental biology at University College London, she completed the Foundation Programme in Neurosciences in Cambridge before taking up her training post in the Northwest. She has trained at Salford Royal Hospital, Royal Preston Hospital and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and is currently undertaking an in-training 360-degree skull base fellowship at the Walton Centre for Neurosciences in Liverpool.



SBNS Pituitary/Skull Base Prize for 2025

Evangelos Drosos, was awarded the SBNS Pituitary/Skull base Prize for his abstract: Application of standardized postoperative pathway in endonasal transsphenoidal pituitary surgery, which he presented at the SBNS Autumn Meeting in Bristol last September.

Evangelos is a neurosurgeon with dedicated skull base fellowship training in the UK whose clinical practice and research centre on complex cranial pathology, advanced anatomical approaches, and improving patient outcomes. He plays an active role in neurosurgical education and training, contributing to national and European teaching initiatives.

The prize consists of £200 and a cup, which he gets to keep for the year.



Diana Beck Essay Prize

The late Diana Beck was recently honoured with a plaque in London for significant contributions to neurosurgery. She was also the first British female Neurosurgeon. Her family have since made a generous bequest to the SBNS to further the careers of aspiring neurosurgeons. The essay prize was created for this purpose, and the value of the prize is £1,000, to be awarded every

two years. The closing date for the next submission is 29th June 2027. For more details visit: <https://www.sbps.org.uk/education/awards-and-prizes.html>

Kanza Tariq is the first person to win the Diana Beck Essay Prize for her essay entitled: When Urinary Catheters Stay Too Long: The Hidden Link Between Constipation, Prolonged Indwelling

Urinary Catheterisation, and Urinary Tract Infections in Neurosurgical Inpatients. It is a nice coincidence that the first winner is a female! Along with the prize money she can present her work at the SBNS Meeting in Harrogate and will also be encouraged to submit her work to the BJNS for consideration.

Saba, Evangelos and Kanza will be invited the Gala Dinner at the SBNS Spring Meeting to receive their awards.



College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA)

The College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) held its annual diet of specialty surgical exams in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 1st December 2025. The top candidate in the FCS Neurosurgery, Eyerusalem Bergene Banti, from Ethiopia, was awarded a prize of £500 sponsored by the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative.

The prize was presented by Chris Barrett, SBNS council member, and current COSECSA External Examiner for Neurosurgery, at the graduation ceremony on Wednesday 3rd December, attended by the Vice President of Burundi.

Well done, Eyerusalem!

The David Hardy Regional Neurosciences Hub



Opening of The David Hardy Regional Neurosciences Hub at Addenbrooke's!

David Hardy, Emeritus Consultant Neurosurgeon and former SBNS President, returned to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge to open The David Hardy Regional Neuroscience Admission Hub on Ward A3, part of the A Block and the first building on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

Prof. Peter Hutchinson

Sir Graham Teasdale and Sam Galbraith

The original neurosciences unit in the West of Scotland was in Killearn, close to the route of the West Highland Way. The hospital had been built during WW2 to treat civilian casualties and was then repurposed after the war. Following the opening of the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow in the early 1970s, the Killearn site remained derelict for many years.



Recently it has been developed for housing, with two prominent Glasgow neurosurgeons, Sir Graham Teasdale and Sam Galbraith, celebrated in the street names. They are also SBNS Medal winners!

Chris Barrett

SBNS 100 Conference 12th - 16th October 2026 Update

It is just under a year until the SBNS 100 meeting, and I hope you have all got the date firmly marked in your diaries. The SBNS100 Meetings Committee have been busy finalising arrangements, booking venues, programme planning, promoting the event via social media and attending international events. We have received a lot of interest thus far, especially from those who have trained or worked in the UK and are eager to help us celebrate and catch up with UK colleagues.

SBNS100 Promo Video

To view the lastest SBNS100 Promotional Video Click on the link above. There are some Oscar winning performances from the SBNS Council.

Several Neuroscience organisations and Neurosurgery Sub-Specialty Groups have confirmed they will be joining us to contribute to the programme. Invitations have also been sent to all the WFNS & EANS member societies and over 100 prominent International and UK speakers have already submitted talk titles on a variety of topics.

The meeting will be a great opportunity to find out about our history, what's going on in neurosurgery today, both at home and abroad, and have a glimpse into the future - AI, robotics and workforce planning - there will be something of interest for everyone.

As well as the clinical academic programme, on the evening of the 12th October we are planning to hold a public event for all the



The Natural History Museum -
Venue for the Gala Dinner



The SBNS Admin Team Promoting the SBNS 100 at the CNS Meeting in October

family: Neurosurgery for Beginners run by Christoffer Rodolphe van Hoogenhout-Tulleken, and his identical twin brother Alexander "Xand" van Hoogenhout-Tulleken, British Physicians and well known television presenters.

The Opening Ceremony on the morning of the 13th October should not be missed. It will cover: a welcome from the President, an overview of the event, a look back over the Society's 100-year History, the Pioneers and the collaboration of neuro specialties and surgical techniques. The remainder of the programme will be packed with a variety of sessions throughout the four days spread over several lecture theatres and breakout rooms - covering Global Neurosurgery, Sports Trauma, Surgery in the Military, Oncology, Radiosurgery, Spine, EDI and Workshops run by: Neuro Theatre Network Group (NTNG), British Journal of Neurosurgery and Neurology and Neurosurgery Students Interest Group (NANSIG) and much more!

As this event is a celebration and an opportunity to network and socialise, we have some wonderful social events planned. A Welcome Reception at the QEII Conference Centre on Tuesday 13th October and a spectacular Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum on Thursday 15th October. Tickets will go on sale when the registration line opens early in January. Please book early to take advantage of the early bird rates.

Abstracts

The Abstract line is due to open at the end of December – submissions are welcome from UK, International Neurosurgeons and Allied Health Professionals.

Unit History Posters - The Archivists would also like all UK units to submit a poster depicting the history of their unit. These can be submitted to the SBNS Office. They will be displayed throughout the meeting. To find out more about submitting a History Poster please contact our Archivists [Richard Gullan](#) or [Jonathan Pollock](#).

To make your stay in the capital as pleasant as possible we will be offering a range of accommodation options via the conference website. We have also teamed up with a local tour operator, Golden Tours, to offer discounts on variety of local attractions and tours for the whole family during the conference dates – these can be booked via the conference webpage – a great opportunity to explore our wonderful city.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the meeting next October please spread the word to your friends and colleagues in the profession and please visit the conference page on the [SBNS website](#) regularly for further updates.

SBNS 100 Committee

The British Neurological Trainee Association Need Your Input!

Please [click here](#) to view a world map of fellowships available to UK trainees. We would like to capture as many as possible, inside and outside the UK.

We welcome all units to contact us with the following information: name of fellowship, short description (200 words). If you have experience of international fellowships which are open to UK applicants, please help us put this on the map.

Rosa Sun

bntae1v1m1@outlook.com

Chair, British Nonsurgical Trainee Association



Post-CCT BNTA Survey

The current landscape of post-CCT career choices for neurosurgical trainees remains unclear.

It is our wish to capture meaningful data on peri-CCT decision-making to determine the scale and reality of the 'workforce crisis' which burdens the current generation, and to identify how our organisations might move forward to support UK trainees.

We invite all post-CCT trainees—whether currently undertaking a fellowship or working in a consultant post—to complete the survey below. If you are not in this group but know someone who is, please help by sharing this request.

Your input is essential. Without accurate information, we cannot make informed progress in addressing the employment challenges faced within our specialty. Please [click here](#).

Rosa Sun and
Gopiga Thanabalasundaram

Chair and post-CCT rep, British Neurosurgical Trainees' Association

BNTA Travel Awards

We are pleased to announce we have secured funding to support the below travel awards. These are through our generous sponsors: SBNS/Barrow, B. Braun Medical Ltd and Integra.

- 1.The BNTA Extended travel award: 4 x £2000 awards
- 2.The BNTA Short travel award: 4 x £1000 awards

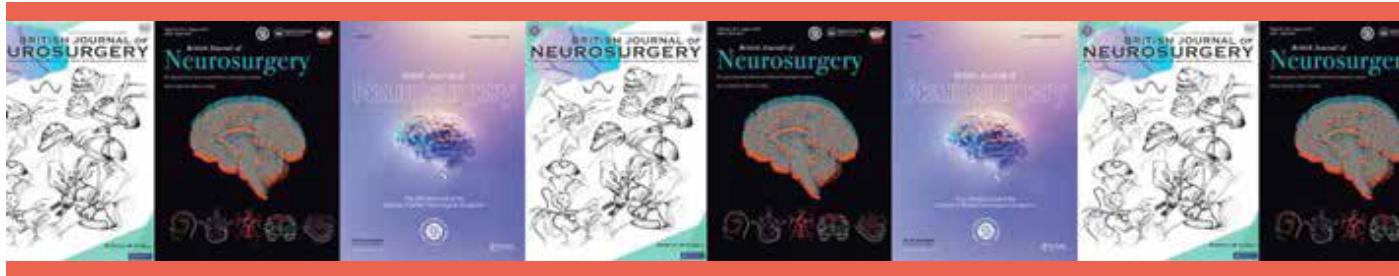
For rules, please refer to the BNTA website. Documents required for each application can also be found there.

Please combine the application form and a short letter of support from the hosting unit into a single PDF file to me at jigishaa.moudgil-joshi@nhs.net by **5pm on 2nd February 2026**.

If you have any queries about either award, please don't hesitate to email me.

Jigi Moudgil-Joshi
BNTA Treasurer, Neurosurgery ST2,
The Royal London Hospital

British Journal of Neurosurgery



As some of you may have noticed the latest impact factor for the British Journal of Neurosurgery has fallen to 0.8. On the surface of it, this is bad, but this is something that we had planned for and was bound to happen at some point or the other. The reason for this was that we had a lot of papers that had been accepted in the past but did not have a volume number or a serial number due to the restrictions placed on us by the publisher of 720 pages of print a year. Starting from the end of 2023 and almost all of 2024 we managed to negotiate an unlimited page count and were therefore able to reduce the backlog significantly. Clearly, if 1000 new papers get published in addition to what we normally publish then the denominator calculation of impact factors suddenly goes up and

Consequently, the impact factor nose dives. At one point we had an acceptance rate of close to 40% but we are now down to 9%, which essentially indicates that we are only accepting very high-quality papers. Over the course of the next 2 years the British Journal of Neurosurgery has plans to increase the number of issues to 12 a year from 6 year in gradual progression.

It is here that I would like to ask all the members to contribute their best papers and impactful work to the BJNS. The BJNS is our national society journal, and I would ask everyone to contribute to this primarily, not as an afterthought. Submit the best papers to us and help the BJNS grow its impact factor and prestige. A couple of questions I have been asked several times, and I have spoken with colleagues and trainees at conferences, is about the premise of papers and publication of case

reports, which is something that I do not particularly encourage but will certainly consider in specific cases.

Many papers fail to reach a publishable standard because they rambled from subject to subject without making a clear argument, and this problem can often be repaired by using a premise. The premise is the message that the paper is aiming to convey. This is generally like the conclusion of the paper. It may be, for example, "surgery for gliomas extends life". Then everything on the paper speaks to the premise and everything that doesn't is cut out. So, surgery's effect on quality of life only is included in so far as that it has a bearing on the length of life, not on its own. The authors should go through ruthlessly cutting anything that doesn't speak to the premise, adding anything that does but it hasn't been included and organizing the flow of the argument so that it leads to the premise.

In general, for case report to merit publication requires that it carries a message and that that message has not appeared in the literature more than about six times previously. This is not a fixed number but varies with the importance of the message. A significant and important message would be considered with more than these prior publications and a prosaic and obscure message may not be publishable even without any prior publications. By obscure I mean messages that depend on multiple subdivisions of categories, such as pathological anatomical, etc. The novel message of the case report should be its entire focus. The introduction should explain why that

message is important. The discussion should place that message in the context of other published results, should derive implications for clinical practice from that message, and should discuss limitations, not of the data themselves, but of that message. Finally, the conclusion should be that message.



Nitin Mukerji, BNJS Editor

Please bear in mind that publishing a paper is a very responsible job and our job as neurosurgeons is to educate and guide others not just publish to further our own interest and clutter the literature in the process.

With greater number of papers will also come the requirement to review these papers in a timely fashion and from time to time I will call upon colleagues and trainees to review them. If you wish to contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on nitin.mukerji@gmail.com. There will be review at training course during the SBNS at Harrogate and I would urge you all to attend that.

Nitin Mukerji
Editor, British Journal of Neurosurgery

SBNS National Simulation Training Courses



STI: 18th – 21st August 2025

The 12th Neurosurgery National ST1 Simulation Training Camp (aka "Bootcamp") was organised at Royal Preston Hospital on 18-21 August 2025 by Mr Arup Ray and Mr Isaac Phang. This is an annual event, on behalf of the SBNS, where all the appointed ST1 trainees for 2025 are invited to attend a residential course consisting of curated lectures, simulation stations and hands-on workshops. The focus was on practical training in basic neurosurgical procedures at the entry level for the speciality. Faculty members were present from all over the UK. There was an exciting social program in the evenings, allowing for team building within the group. The event was well-received.

Ugandan observers at the ST1 Simulation Training Camp

In August the SBNS had the pleasure of welcoming two consultants from Kampala in Uganda to the ST1 Stimulation Training Camp as observers and two other Ugandan Neurosurgeons have also been invited to the ST3 boot camp in October. These visits are being funded by the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative and are designed to support Ugandan colleagues establishing a boot camp in East Africa for local trainees.

Oscar Obiga and Lydia Nanjula are both practicing Neurosurgeons in Kampala. They were able to attend all four days of the boot camp as well as the group evening meals. A presentation on working in Kampala was given and there was ample opportunity for interaction with UK consultants and trainees.

Over the last three years the Global Neurosurgery Initiative has funded UK trainees visiting Venezuela, Jamaica and Nepal. Clinical observerships or conference attendance has been funded for resident neurosurgeons from Egypt, Jordan, Brazil, Gaza, Nepal, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Afghanistan and Indonesia. Other projects have included provision of examiners to the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and support with EANS for a skull base course in Kenya.

The fund is restricted to projects that focus on low middle income countries, further details can be found under the global tab on the SBNS website.

The next ST1 Simulation Training Camp will be held in Preston, 17th - 20th August 2026.

Mr Arup Ray and Mr Isaac Phang



ST3: 6th – 10th October 2025

The ST3 Simulation Camp was organised by Mr Sandeep Solanki, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Course Director, JCST-SAC Simulation Lead for ST3 and was held at the University Hospital Coventry & West Midlands Surgical Training Centre, UK.

The event is endorsed by the SAC in Neurosurgery and SBNS. It is aimed at the ST3 trainees and is part of ST3 Curriculum. It provides focused lectures, simulation training and cadaveric lab experience over one week period.

It was a great success and the feedback to the faculty has been very encouraging -

"One of the most useful educational events in my training so far. Thank all involved for the clearly significant work put into arranging this."

The next ST3 camp will be also be held at the University Hospital Coventry & West Midlands Surgical Training Centre - 2nd - 6th November 2026.

To find out more and to register for the next event please email Rachel Davies (courses@mededcoventry.com).

Finishing School 7th/8th – November 2025

We had a fantastic week full of enthusiastic trainees learning about how to manage themselves and in a team; leadership skills; how to make business plans; and how to be a consultant. Along with NHS Healthcare and Management Educators, there were fantastic talks from medical directors, ex-Chief Finance Officers, managers, and neurosurgeons from across the country giving advice about how to be the best you can be and get the most out of the healthcare system for your patients!

The ST7 Finishing School is held every 2 years - the next one will be in 2027.



Future Neurosurgery Consultants!

Kat Whitehouse

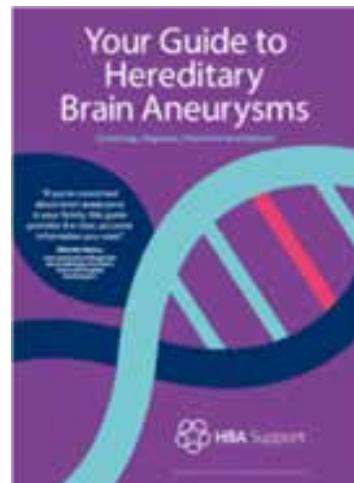
New Guide For Hereditary Brain Aneurysm Patients

HBA Support, in partnership with patients, neurospecialists and health communication experts, has developed a new guide for individuals recently diagnosed with a hereditary brain aneurysm.

Blending medical expertise with lived experience, it offers clear information, reassurance, and connection.

View online: heyzine.com/flip-book/3e1176e214.html#page/1

Request a free copy: hbasupport.org/brain-aneurysm-patient-guide-order-form



Call for Examiners

Why Examining Matters: Building the Future of UK Neurosurgery, One Question at a Time

A Call to Join JCIE



Surajit Basu

Chair, Intercollegiate Specialty Board (Neurosurgery) Joint Committee
Intercollegiate Examinations

There are parts of our work that leave an impression long after the day has finished. Some of those moments happen in theatre, some in difficult conversations with families, and some in the quiet rooms where we meet our trainees at the threshold of independent practice.

The intercollegiate Fellowship examination is one of those thresholds and it only stands because consultants across the UK give their time, judgment, and experience to uphold it.

As we prepare for the next cycles of the JCIE examination, we are inviting more colleagues to join us—not only as examiners, but as question writers, custodians of quality, and contributors to the shared future of our specialty.

When you sit across from a trainee during the viva, you realise very quickly that this is not a bureaucratic ritual. It is a distillation of years of training, effort, fear, resilience and hope. Your role at that moment is simple but profound: to look for safe practice, to recognise good judgement, and to give a fair, balanced assessment that the trainee can trust.

There is quiet satisfaction in that process. A sense of stewardship. A feeling that

this is part of the job that truly builds the next generation. Many colleagues describe, often with some surprise, how fulfilling the examining days can be. The camaraderie, the shared purpose, the honest conversations about standards—it leaves you with the sense that your time was spent on something meaningful.

Behind every successful examination lies a bank of questions crafted carefully by consultants who understand the real clinical practice. A good question is not a trick. It is a window into clinical reasoning—how we think, how we weigh risk, how we define safe neurosurgery. Writing questions forces clarity. You pare down a scenario to the essential facts. You decide what you are trying to test. In doing so, you often refine your own teaching and supervision at home. These contributions—small on the surface—strengthen the examination in ways that matter deeply to trainees: fairness, consistency, and the confidence that the assessment reflects the reality of clinical neurosurgery today, not ten years ago.

Our specialty is changing faster than ever. Surgical techniques evolve, critical care shifts, expectations rise, and our trainees navigate an increasingly complex landscape. To maintain a reliable and respected examination, we require a broad and representative group of examiners and contributors. Your experience, your cases, your judgement, your clarity—makes a measurable difference. What you ask in the examination is, trainees learn them. Examination has the power to steer training, the future knowledge base of consultants.

If you have ever benefitted from a fair examiner...

If you believe the Intercollegiate examination in Neurosurgery should remain a respected, meaningful standard, if you want to leave neurosurgery a little stronger than you found it...Then please consider joining the JCIE Neurosurgery Family.

Find out what it is like being an Examiner.....

My Journey to the JCIE Examiner Panel: A Perspective on Standard Setting in Neurosurgery

Serving on the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE) Panel of Examiners is a privilege and a serious professional responsibility. It allows us, as established consultant neurosurgeons, to directly contribute to maintaining the high standards required for our specialty.

My journey from a candidate to an examiner for the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Neurosurgery (FRCS Neurosurgery) has been very insightful and I wanted to share my experiences regarding the application, training, question writing, and the invaluable experience of my first exam as an examiner.

The application process for the Panel of Examiners is rigorous, reflecting the importance of the role. Eligibility requires commitment to surgical education and the maintenance of professional standards and key criteria include consultant experience (five years in a substantive NHS role, Royal College Fellowship, structured references from Training Programme and Medical Directors attesting to professional conduct, commitment, and suitability. Prior experience in examining, e.g., MRCS or undergraduate exams, or formal trainee assessment experience is highly valued.

My prior involvement in local training assessments and teaching certainly helped strengthen my application. In addition, there must be a commitment and demonstration of willingness to dedicate the necessary time for question writing and attending examinations. The applications are considered through open competition by the Intercollegiate Specialty Board, ensuring a fair and merit-based selection. Prior to being appointed a formal examiner it is possible to become a question writer for the written examination.

Call for Examiners (cont'd)

The roles are slightly different, and the application processes differ. However, question writing experience is a significant advantage when applying to become an examiner later. The eligibility criteria for question writers are less restrictive than those for full examiners and include consultants who may not meet the full seniority requirements for examining.

My appointment as examiner was followed by an essential phase of training and observation. This is crucial for calibration, ensuring all examiners apply the same standards across the different components of the exam. This process involved the following components:

Induction Course:

New examiners must attend the mandatory JCIE Examiner Induction Course. This intensive training focuses on the philosophy of the exam, the structured marking schemes, avoiding bias, and maintaining the standard set at the level of a day one consultant in the specialty.

Observation:

I was required to observe a full Section 2 (Oral/Clinical) examination before taking on the role of an active examiner. Shadowing experienced examiners provided invaluable insight into the flow of the viva stations, how to effectively probe a candidate's higher-order thinking, and the nuances of the structured marking process. This observation period transitioned the theoretical knowledge from the induction course and question writing sessions into practical applications.

The integrity of the written, oral, and clinical examinations hinges on the quality of the questions. Serving as a question writer is a continuous and demanding aspect of the role. The question writing sessions take place over a two-day period, and at the end of this you come away with the feeling of having expanded and consolidated your own knowledge.

Focus on Application:

Questions are designed to test more than just recall. We aim for higher-order thinking, the ability to apply knowledge, justify decisions, and manage complex, real-world clinical scenarios. Answers to questions should not be googleable. For the Structured Oral and Clinical Examination, questions must follow logical progression, mimicking a clinical discussion.

Blueprint Mapping:

Each question is carefully mapped to the Neurosurgery Curriculum and the Capabilities in Practice, ensuring broad coverage of the syllabus and appropriate assessment across all required domains.

Standard Setting:

Detailed acceptable key points are mandatory for each question, defining what a "day one consultant" would be expected to discuss. This ensures objectivity during the marking process.

Rigorous Review:

New questions undergo multiple stages of peer review and editing by the Question Writing Group before being banked. This meticulous process filters out ambiguous or poorly structured questions. This emphasis on quality control is the bedrock of a fair examination.

My first time examining was a profoundly rewarding, yet challenging, experience. It can be quite an anxiety provoking experience, especially when you are being peer reviewed!

The Atmosphere:

While the exam is understandably high stakes for the candidates, the examiners are committed to creating a professional and courteous environment. We are not there to catch candidates out, but to determine if they meet the required standard, and help navigate them through the course of questions when challenging.

The Structured Viva:

During the Oral and Clinical Examinations, working in pairs with a senior examiner was extremely beneficial. It provided immediate on-the-spot calibration and allowed us to observe the candidate's performance from two slightly different angles before synthesizing the final score independently.

Maintaining Objectivity:

The training in using the structured marking descriptors (specifically the rating criteria form) was paramount. It forces you to move beyond subjective impressions and assign a score based strictly on the demonstration of knowledge, judgement, and professionalism commensurate with the day one consultant level.

Insight into Training:

Seeing a cross-section of trainees from across the UK and Ireland was fascinating. It underscored the breadth of neurosurgical training and provided a deeper appreciation for the high level of competence our trainees achieve.

In conclusion, becoming a JCIE examiner is far more than an official title; it's a deep professional commitment to the future of our specialty. It allows us to give back to the training programme and safeguard the standards that define a competent, safe, and professional neurosurgeon.



Chris Derham
Consultant Neurosurgeon
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

To find out the criteria for becoming an examiner please [click here](#) or visit the [JCIE website](#).

SBNS Autumn Meeting – Bristol



The SBNS Autumn Meeting hosted by Southmead Hospital, Bristol and the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children was a monumental success and had the highest recorded attendance rate for an SBNS bi-annual meeting. The great location, reputation and hospitality of the Bristol unit/colleagues, the stimulating programme and attendance of our invited guests, the Hellenic Society, undoubtedly contributed to its popularity.

The satellite day held on Tuesday, organized by the Neuromodulation Society of UK and Ireland (NSUKI) was also well attended. Their programme covered what neuromodulation can be offered for chronic pain conditions where surgery is not an option. Sarah Love-Jones did a fantastic job compiling their agenda and sourcing an array of interesting speakers.

The Lifelong learning session – “Dissecting the Neurosurgical Operating Theatre” brought together everyone in the neurosurgical community – surgeons, nurses and anaesthetists and highlighted the importance of teamworking. This session teamed up well with the Neuro Theatre Network Group workshop run by Spencer Hampton on Wednesday afternoon. Now a regular feature of the Autumn SBNS Meetings.



The Lifelong Learning Speakers

The three eponymous lectures were expertly delivered: - Sir Victor Horsley by Crispin Wigfield (on behalf of the late Nitin Patel), Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, by Moschos Fratzoglou, Immediate Past President of the Hellenic Neurosurgical Society and Sir Hugh Cairns, by Anna Piasecki, Director of Research and Enterprise (School of Social Sciences).



Peter Hutchinson & Moschos Fratzoglou



Crispin Wigfield



Ven Iyer & Anna Piasecki



The SBNS President, Kelly Patel and Roshan and Jai

Nitin's lecture, "Reflecting on a journey into Thoracic disc surgery: connecting the dots of chance encounters" was eloquently presented by Crispin in the presence of Nitin's wife Kelly, their two sons Roshan and Jai, and his mother.

It was clear to see that Nitin loved his work, and his family were beaming with pride after the presentation. There was not a dry eye in the audience.

The Hot Topic session covered – Safe Neurosurgery and plans to update the 2000 version, Confidential Reporting System in Surgery (CORESS) and the results of Duration of External Neck Stabilisation (DENS) Trial.

On Wednesday afternoon there was an insightful session on Neurosurgical Training: A journey to Ithaca (comparing and contrasting training pathways in UK and Greece).

On Friday the Diana and Alan Karter Lecture was successfully launched during the Global Session, " Critical Care International - exploring the impact of advanced medical expertise and governance in resource limited environments". It was delivered by Julian Thompson, Consultant in Critical Care.

The meeting also received a high number of abstract submissions and the selection committee had a tough job selecting which to include in the programme. They obviously did a good job as all the free paper sessions were interesting and informative. The three winners will receive a £100 book voucher courtesy of [Thieme](#) and will be invited to the Gala dinner in Harrogate to receive their certificates from the President.

Prizes were awarded to:

Best Oral



Zan Florjanic Baronik (UCL) for his abstract: Axonal injury is a targetable driver of glioblastoma progression

Best Short Oral



Antony Kaldas (Southampton) for his abstract: The use of fluorescein sodium in neuro oncological procedures: an early single-centre experience.

Best Electronic Poster



Salim El Hadwe (Cambridge) for his abstract: Circumferential spinal cord interface enables high-fidelity motor intent decoding and multimodal sensory discrimination

Winner of the Quiz



During the meeting there was an extensive Exhibition, and we are very grateful to all our sponsors for their support. The winner of the sponsors Quiz was - Sajjad Saghebdoust, ARIA Clinical Research Fellow at Queen's Hospital, Romford, UK. His prize is FREE registration to attend the SBNS Spring meeting in Harrogate. It will be worth doing the quiz at the next meeting as there will be a chance to win free registration for the SBNS 100 meeting in October 2026!

For the first time we had a mobile lab in the car park and a sponsored workshop during the extended lunchbreak on Thursday. Thanks to Arthrex Spine for their mobile Lab and Baxter who ran a surgical skills workshop to give delegates an opportunity to try out their equipment.



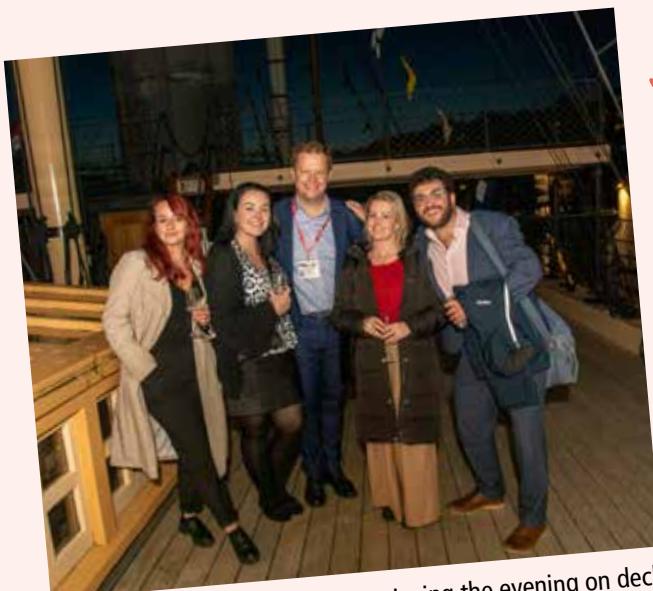
Everyone who has attended an SBNS meeting knows only too well that social events are always held at great venues that reflect the local area, and Bristol was no exception. The Welcome Reception was held on board SS Great Britain and the Gala dinner at Aerospace Bristol under the wings of Concorde! Check out the photos in the gallery.

A big thank you to all our colleagues in Bristol, especially Ven Iyer and Crispin Wigfield for a wonderful meeting, and lending us their secretaries, Kelly Caley and Katie Harvey to help on the registration desk, the AV team at Talking Slides, and to everyone who attended and contributed to the meeting.

Photo Gallery



Our Nepalese visitors & Isambard Kingdom Brunel



Delegates enjoying the evening on deck



Dining under the Concorde



Thank you gifts for the SBNS Admin Team

If you missed any of the sessions presented at the Bristol Meeting or want a second viewing the recordings are now available via the Talking Slides site. Simply access the site through the link:

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

Talking Slides!
Capture, Create, Communicate.



Prize Winners



Our invited guests from the Hellenic Society could not resist a bit of Greek dancing!



How low can you go?



Carole showing the Greeks how the English boogie!

SBNS Spring Meeting in Harrogate

14th - 17th April 2026



The SBNS look forward to welcoming you to Harrogate for our Spring Meeting. This year we are joining forces with the British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) which is run by the SBNS Academic Committee.

It will be an excellent opportunity for clinicians and researchers to get together to present and discuss their work and future combined projects. The theme of the meeting is '**Neurosurgery research: from hypothesis to implementation**'.

The chosen venue is the [Majestic Hotel, Harrogate](#) in North Yorkshire. It is an impressive landmark hotel has recently been refurbished and has excellent accommodation and conference facilities which makes it the ideal choice - everything under one roof! We don't have a host unit for this event.

On Tuesday, 14th April the [British Neurosurgical Trainees Association \(BNTA\)](#) and the [British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative \(BNTRC\)](#) will be hosting a pre-meeting symposium entitled: "**Designing Research Studies and**

Obtaining Funding". It will cover research methodology, including how to develop a hypothesis, design a clinical trial and grant writing skills. An excellent opportunity for those interested in research to find out the best way to start and to fund their projects. All are welcome to attend.

The Main Meeting runs from 15-17 April. The Lifelong Learning Session on Wednesday morning will be on "**Getting Research and New Innovations into Clinical Practice**". This session should be of interest to all working in the neurosurgical environment at all levels. We all know how important it is to implement our research findings into routine clinical practice; it can improve outcomes for our patients and make our clinical practices run more efficiently.

The remainder of the programme will cover all aspects of neurosurgery. This meeting is not just focused on Research. We have a great line up of esteemed UK and international speakers, free paper sessions, Breakfast Seminars (the BJNS will be running the Friday Seminar, following the very successful one held in Belfast)

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 15th April

The Welcome Reception - Cold Bath Brewery and Tap Room - a fun informal evening – great for networking and catching up with colleagues and making new friends.

Thursday 16th April

The Gala Dinner will be held at The Royal Hall, a Grade II listed theatre in the heart of the famous Spa Town of Harrogate. Eat, drink and be merry! Tickets are £90.00. Book early, it will be a popular event.

The Abstract line closed on the 15th December – thank you to everyone who submitted their work – notification of acceptance will be sent out by email at the end of January. The registration line is now open – please visit the Harrogate [conference webpage](#) regularly in the lead up to the meeting for regular updates.

40th Year Stereotactic Radiosurgery Celebration



On the 14th of November 2025, the National Centre for Stereotactic Radiosurgery marked a major milestone — four decades of pioneering radiosurgical practice in Sheffield. Colleagues, collaborators, and partners convened at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sheffield for an educational meeting featuring invited speakers whose presentations spanned clinical developments over 40 years, emerging techniques, and interdisciplinary innovation.

Their contributions brought real depth to the programme and ensured the anniversary was celebrated in the most fitting way — through the exchange of knowledge and the pursuit of continued progress. The celebrations continued

into the evening with a Gala Dinner recognising the Centre's longstanding commitment to innovation and patient-centred care. A highlight of the event was the announcement of the David Forster Fellowship in Stereotactic Radiosurgery. This newly established fellowship honours the remarkable contributions of Mr David Forster, the neurosurgeon whose vision introduced the Gamma Knife to Sheffield and helped shape the trajectory of non-invasive neurosurgical treatment in the UK. His leadership has created a legacy that continues to influence practice and improve patient outcomes nationwide.

As we reflect on 40 years of achievement, we also look ahead to the next era of development — and to supporting the

clinicians, researchers, and innovators who will define the future of stereotactic radiosurgery. Here's to four decades of excellence, and to the ongoing advancement of this vital field at the National Centre for Stereotactic Radiosurgery.



Esther Buckland Superintendent
Radiographer
Stereotactic Radiosurgery
Royal Hallamshire Hospital & Matt Radatz
Consultant Neurosurgeon
Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

EANS/NESON International Meeting 13th - 15th November 2025 – Nepal, Kathmandu

In November the SBNS was invited to join the Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons' International Conference. Other organisations contributing to the programme included the EANS, WFNS, AANS, AASNS, NSI, ISPIN, and CNS. The Theme was "Subspecialties In Neurosurgery: Unlocking New Dimensions in Care". The conference was held at the Plaza, Lalitpur, in the capital city of Kathmandu commencing with a pre-conference Workshop covering Endoscopic Spine, Functional Neurosurgery and Microvascular anastomosis.

The two main academic programme days covered all aspects of neurosurgery with clinical and academic research sessions with 143 speakers, 56 of whom were

International invited guests. Speakers from the SBNS included Prof. Peter Whitfield, Nigel Mendoza, Navneet Singh, Paul Chumas, Joshi George and Alistair Jenkins. The high standard of a superbly organised meeting was matched by the most kind, gracious hospitality and a very entertaining social programme.

The SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative committee have been working closely with the Nepalese Society since the founding of the Devkota Bursary in his memory since 2018. The SBNS has since supported several observerships to Nepalese neurosurgeons, Consultants and residents in training, to visit units in the UK and attend SBNS national meetings. An exchange fellowship programme has commenced with three

residents who will be travelling to Nepal. Currently Howra Ktayen from Leeds is currently working in Pokhara, Nepal and also spoke at the conference to share the tremendous experience she has had.

The SBNS fully intend to continue this collaboration in the years to come.



A Spotlight on Aesculap Academy Neurosurgery Events



British Skull Base Society Meeting



Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd
January 2026



Doubletree by Hilton
Stoke-on-Trent

This multidisciplinary event brings together experts in Otolaryngology, Neurosurgery, Oncology, Maxillofacial surgery and Nursing, focusing on advancing clinical care in skull base medicine.

Programme highlights include:

- Expert-led lectures on skull base surgery and multidisciplinary management.
- Free paper sessions featuring posters and short oral presentations on innovative research and clinical practice, promoting further networking opportunities.
- Young BSBS platform supporting training and development for future skull base surgeons.
- CPD points awarded by The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Scan or click
the QR code
to secure
your place



The British Neurovascular Group Meeting



Thursday 5th – Friday 6th
February 2026



London Institute for
Healthcare Engineering

This two-day event brings together neurosurgeons and specialists with a major clinical interest in vascular neurosurgery.

The meeting offers:

- Case-based discussions on challenging neurovascular scenarios.
- Free paper sessions (oral and poster) showcasing cutting-edge research.
- Key note speaker: Miki Fujimura, MD, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine.
- CPD points awarded by The Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- Networking opportunities and poster viewing.

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Dates for your diary

SBNS MEETINGS



[SBNS Spring Meeting 2026](#) Joint SBNS/BNRG Meeting

14th - 17th April 2026

Harrogate Hilton Majestic Hotel
Abstract line open in September

SBNS Spring Meeting 2027

Hosted by the Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow

20th - 23rd April 2027

SBNS100

12th - 16th October 2026



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 **October 2026** in London. Mark your diaries!

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



EXTERNAL MEETINGS



[EANS Congress](#)

30th Sept – 4th October 2026
Hamburg

Subspecialty Meetings

Full details are on the SBNS and Sub-specialty websites

- British Skull Base Society, 22nd - 23rd January 2026
- British Radiosurgery Society, 29th - 30th January 2026
- British Neurovascular Group, 5th - 6th February 2026
- British Paediatric Neurosurgical Group, 19th - 20th March 2026
- British Association of Spinal Surgeons, 29th April - 1st May 2026

For details of various other meetings and courses taking please visit the Conference pages and the Dates for your Diary Section on the [SBNS website](#).

The SBNS Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS colleagues. Contributions are welcome for the next issue due out in August 2026, content will be required by **June 2026**. Please contact [Suzanne Murray](#) at the SBNS office if you would like to submit an article.



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Aesculap Academy Neurosurgery Events 2026



Scan or click the QR codes below to
register and for more information:



British Skull Base Society Meeting

Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd January 2026
Stoke-on-Trent



The British Neurovascular Group Meeting

Thursday 5th – Friday 6th February 2026
London



**Endoscopic Anterior Skull Base Surgery:
Hands-On Cadaveric Course**

Monday 29th – Tuesday 30th June 2026
Leeds

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



**Current Practice in Normal Pressure
Hydrocephalus Management in Scotland
– An Update Symposium**

Friday 24th April 2026
Dunblane



Fundamentals of Paediatric Neurosurgery Course

Monday 15th – Tuesday 16th June 2026
Sheffield



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