

Newsletter September 2026

Society of British Neurological Surgeons

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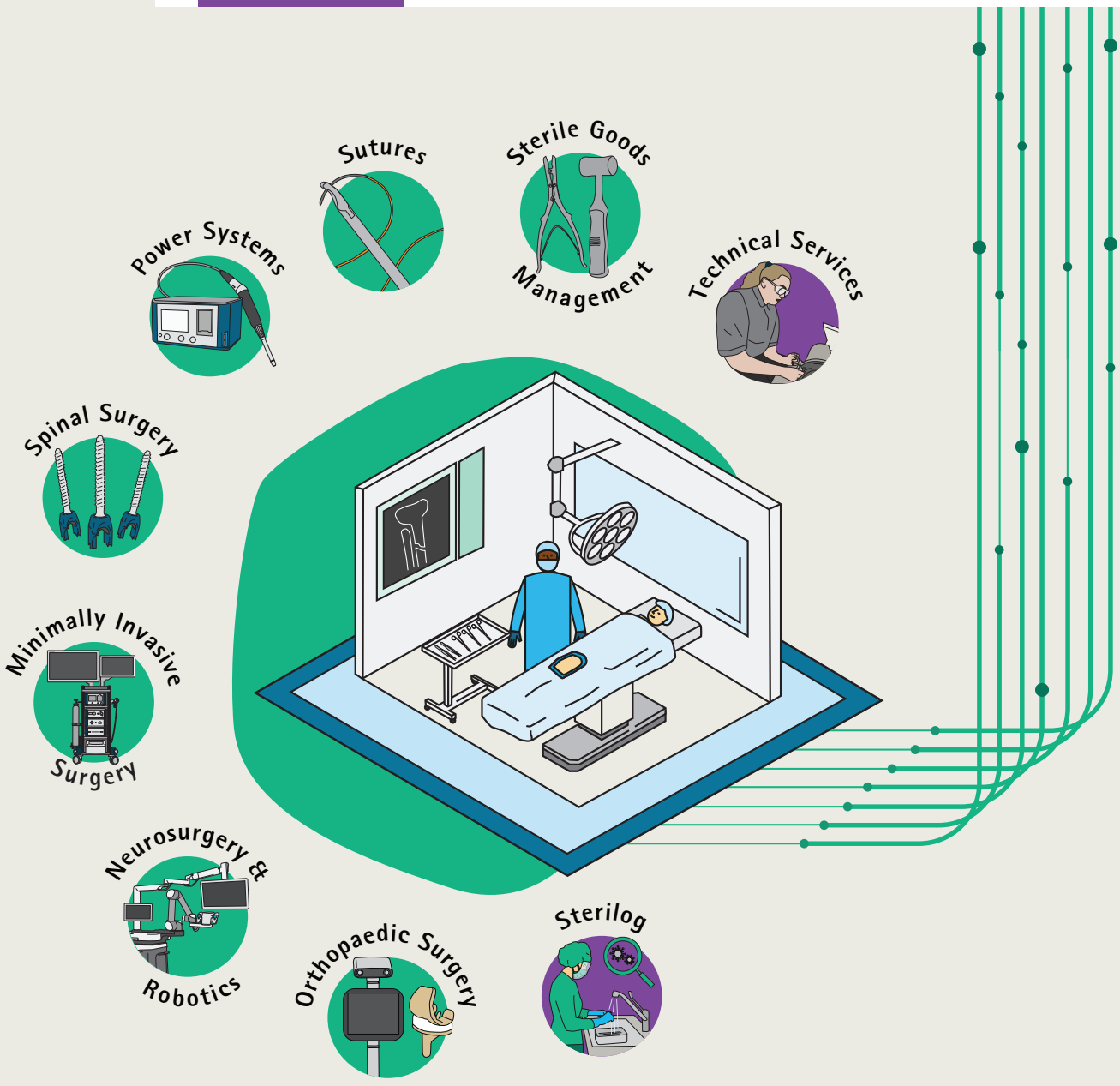
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A Message from the President



Peter Hutchinson, SBNS President

Dear Friends,

As the Society approaches its centenary, it is remarkable to reflect on how far British and Irish neurosurgery has come since the SBNS was founded in 1926 by pioneering neurosurgeons including Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, Professor Norman Dott, Sir Charles Ballance, Wilfred Trotter, Henry Souttar, Sir Hugh Cairns and Arthur Bankart, encouraged by Harvey Cushing. Over the past 100 years, advances in surgical technique, antibiotics, anaesthesia, intensive care, CT, MRI, microsurgery and subspecialisation have transformed our specialty.

From those early pioneers, British and Irish neurosurgery has grown to more than 500 consultants and 249 trainees and 280 other residents working across 40 centres, with Society membership now exceeding 1,000. Thank you to Kat Whitehouse for keeping us up to date with these accurate figures.

The Centenary Meeting: SBNS 100

A huge amount of work has gone into the SBNS 100 celebrations, led by 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 and Kelly Caley). The meeting takes place from October 12th to 16th across several London venues, including the QEII Conference Centre, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Natural History Museum, The scientific and social programme is available on the website https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/sbns-100.html, with an exciting range of plenary and parallel sessions, international speakers and participation from our colleagues across the wider neurological, surgical and medical communities, including the Royal Colleges, the Association of British Neurologists, Neuro Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society, College of Emergency Medicine, British Association of Spinal Surgeons and the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine

Our new history of UK and Irish Neurosurgery, led by Jonathan Pollock and Richard Gullan, was published in August and is available through Amazon and at SBNS 100. The companion project, History of UK and Irish Neurosurgery in 100 Papers, led by Michael Jenkinson, Paul Brennan, Catherine McMahon and Carole Turner, is also progressing well. Please continue to encourage colleagues to attend SBNS 100 and support the SBNS 100 fundraising campaign and Patron Appeal, which will help sustain our training and research activities into the next century. https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/sbns-100/sbns-patron.html.

The British Journal of Neurosurgery is also playing a crucial role in the centenary activities including a Future of Neurosurgery supplement. Thank you to our Editor-in-Chief Nitin Mukerji who continues to drive the journal from strength to strength and will now be supported by the appointment of two new editors covering cranial and spinal neurosurgery, Chandrasekaran Kaliaperumal and Andreas Demetriades.

The Future of Neurosurgery: Research, innovation and training

The Future of neurosurgery remains a major focus for the Society. Michael Jenkinson Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact is leading the Future of Neurosurgery Initiative, exploring new technology, techniques, research impact and innovation, alongside the Royal College of Surgeons of England Clinical Research Initiative, now led by Ellie Edlmann for cranial neurosurgery and Aminul Ahmed for spinal surgery, The Academic Committee, led by Paul Brennan and managed by Carole Turner, continues to provide outstanding support for research with the UK and Ireland punching well above its weight. We have also appointed Bhaskar Thakur as the Society's first Artificial Intelligence Lead.

It has been particularly rewarding to work with our trainees: you are the future of the specialty. The ST1, ST3 and ST7/8 simulation and finishing schools have all been excellent, thanks to Arup Ray, Isaac Phang, Sandeep Solanki, Venkat Iyer, Kat Whitehouse and the many Society members who contribute to these programmes. Thank you also to Simon Thomson for his work on funding raising.

I am grateful to Donald Macarthur for his work overseeing training as Chair of the SAC and thank Kevin Tsang for taking on this role. Thank you also to Kat Whitehouse for her continued work on workforce planning, Rosa Sun for her leadership of the British Neurosurgical Trainee Association, and the British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative for its contribution to research. We have also responded to the current consultation on changes to the governance of postgraduate training, working closely with the Royal College of Surgeons of England

A Message from the President

and the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations. Support for the membership continues to be delivered by both mentoring led by Ian Kamaly and the support line provided by Emily Borhan.

Safe neurosurgery: clinical service delivery and commissioning

In terms of clinical service delivery there are ongoing changes in commissioning with the full impact of the transition between NHS England and DHSC yet to be realised. Andy King has worked hard representing us on the CRG with a complex landscape of both local commissioning via ICBs and centralised commissioning aligned to three levels of conditions. Both low volume high complexity MDTs for Chordoma and ECIC bypass MDTs have commenced, albeit representing a very small proportion of neurosurgical activity and no doubt further changes will follow.

Our national representatives continue to work hard on behalf of the Society, alongside colleagues across the Royal Colleges and subspecialty organisations. thank you to Ian Kamaly (Royal College of Surgeons of England), Ciarán Bolger (Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland), Likhith Alakandy (Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh), Ravi Nannapaneni (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow), Philip Wier (Northern Ireland), Kat Whitehouse (Wales). Jonathan Bull has been appointed as RCS Invited Review Oversight Group Representative. New appointments to the Sub-specialty leads include Ian Anderson (British Neurovascular Group), Keyoumars Ashkan (Oncology Lead) and Charlotte Hammerbeck-Ward (SBNS skull base Lead). I also would like to thank Raghu Vindlacheruvu, our Sustainability Lead, and James Piercy, our lay member of the council, for his support for both the SBNS and the NIHR Health Tech Research Centre for Brain Injury.

We remain committed to promoting safe and effective neurosurgical practice. Nigel Mendoza President Elect and Adel Helmy are leading the next iteration of Safe Neurosurgery, aligned with the National Neurosurgery Audit Programme. Thank you to Dan Thompson for his work as NNAP Fellow, and welcome to Sobiya Bilal in the role. We also continue our important work with NICE, with Nihal Gurusinghe representing the Society.

Global neurosurgery: advocacy and capacity building

As we celebrate the past, present and look forward to the future of British and Irish Neurosurgery we need to continue to be conscious that what we take for granted is not universal. In 2022 the world's population exceeded 8 billion, 5 billion of whom do not have access to anaesthetic and surgical care. The Lancet Commission for Surgery has specified certain procedures that should be available including for neurosurgery evacuation of cranial haematoma. The SBNS is one of leading national societies addressing the challenges of delivering safe neurosurgery globally through the SBNS Global Initiative and Committee (Nigel Mendoza, Simon Thomson, Alistair Jenkins, Chris Barrett, Surajit Basu, Peter Whitfield Iona Jenkins, Rosa Sun and Moody Qureshi). Nigel Mendoza, Vice President for Global Neurosurgery and President Elect, has handed over the reins of the Global Initiative to Chris Barrett and we have a new secretary, Navneet Singh and Global training lead, Salima Wahab.

Our global activity would not be possible without funding. We are extremely grateful to Alistair Jenkins and The Alan and Diana Karter Fund and to the Barrow Foundation (thank you to Simon Thomson for facilitating this) which between them have contributed £2m to the Global activity of the SBNS including supporting fellowships (UK to Low-middle income country and vice-versa). We are also grateful to the NIHR for a £3m grant for the Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury. Our global activity includes training (fellowships) research (https://new.absi.world) and advocacy. We attended the World Health Assembly Geneva in May 2026 and continue to advocate for traumatic brain injury as a notifiable and chronic disease.

Within Europe we continue to build our relationship with the EANS, with an EANS session planned at SBNS 100. We also continue to collaborate with the EANS President Francesco Sala and WFNS Assistant Treasurer Peter Whitfield to resolve the ongoing issues affecting the WFNS. Thank you to Sanjeeva Jeyaretna and Pragnesh Bhatt for being our EANS and WFNS representatives, and to Jake Timothy for continuing to play an active role in the relationship between the SBNS and other societies nationally and internationally.

Au revoir and thank you!

One of the greatest privileges of being President has been meeting colleagues at our meetings and events, both in the UK and internationally. This include interactions at our Spring meeting in Harrogate (the first joint meeting of the Society with the British Neurosurgery Research Group) representing the SBNS at a joint meeting of RCS and the German Surgical Society in Leipzig, the World Health Assembly in Geneva, the Canadian Neuroscience Neurological Sciences Federation in Banff, the Surgical Forum with the Federation of Surgical Speciality Associations in Edinburgh. A huge thank you goes to Sam Hettige, our meetings and communications Secretary. In relation to the Society's meeting please continue to nominate colleagues for SBNS Medals at future meetings. I would also like to thank our Treasurer, Surajit Basu for his careful stewardship of the Society's finances, which remain strong and stable, and for his role as Chair of the Examination Board.w

This is the final newsletter to be edited by Suzanne Murray before her retirement at the end of October. Suzanne has given outstanding service to the SBNS, combining professionalism, organisation and kindness throughout her time as Chief Administrator. We will miss her greatly, although hope we will continue to see both Suzanne and John, our first-class official photographer! Thank you both. I would also like to thank Carole Turner, who is retiring from her role as Manager of the Academic Committee. Her combination of scientific expertise and exceptional organisational skills has made an enormous contribution to SBNS research nationally and internationally.

Our admin team remains in very safe hands. Alix Gordon is taking over from Suzanne in the Senior Role, and we welcome Kerry Looney as our new administrator working alongside Alix and Kelly Caley.



Happy memories of an awayday Council Meeting in my home town, Plymouth back in 2025

Finally, this is my last newsletter as President before I hand over to Nigel Mendoza. I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues on the Senior Executive Committee (Nigel, Surajit Basu, Crispin Wigfield, Michael Jenkinson, Adel Helmy, Sam Hettige), the admin team (Suzanne Murray, Alix Gordon, Carole Turner, Kelly Caley), Council, and you as members of a vibrant neurosurgical community that continues to uphold the highest standards of clinical excellence and innovation. Your contribution through clinical service, training, research and advocacy strengthen the shared mission of the SBNS to improve outcomes for patients across the UK, Ireland and beyond. I look forward to seeing you at SBNS 100 and on behalf of SBNS Council, I extend warmest wishes to you and your families for the future.

With very best wishes,

Prof. Peter Hutchinson

President of Society of British Neurological Surgeons

Welcome New Members

The following new members had their membership ratified by the Council (Jan /April/June 2026).

Full

Debasish Pal
Ozair Sabir
Parag Sayal
Aimun Jamjoom
Nisaharan Srikandarajah
Abhijit Hazra
Thomas Doke
Salman Shaikh
Zuhair Karmi

Associate

Ahmad Houssen
Abdulla Qassim
Hazel Sanghvi
Mostafa Elmaghraby
Laura Vraciu
Sarah Estrella
Conor Gillespie
Amira Hanis Amir
Lucila Laplace
Micaela Uberti
Asfand Mirza

Affiliated

Joy Mbaulu
David Quist
Ahmed Elnaggar
Abdalla Mansour
Sherry Liu
Shvetha Vijayakumar

International

Obaid Rehman

Consultant Upper-Income

Wei Bu
Andrii Sirko
Ahmed A Salam Al Atraqchi

Senior

Andrew Brodbelt
Jennifer Brown
Richard Gullan
Roy McConnell
Garth Cruickshank

New Appointments



Bhaskar Thakur - SBNS AI Lead

I am delighted to have been appointed as the SBNS's AI Lead. AI is already forming part of neurosurgical practice, and early successes in ambient transcription and imaging evaluation will likely expand in coming years to include decision support tools. My role is to help our specialty adopt these technologies safely and sensibly.

My priorities are to establish an AI Specialty Interest Group with representation from every unit, survey the tools already in use across the UK, and introduce a shared, standardised way of assessing new tools - so the work one unit does can benefit all.

Alongside this, we will develop education on the safe use of AI for neurosurgeons at all levels, empowering our members to use this exciting technology safely and to its full potential for our patients.



Ellie Edlmann Surgical Specialty Lead for Neurosurgery Research at the RCS

I am delighted to take over as the Neurosurgery SSL at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. This role encompasses several of the things that made me want to be an academic neurosurgeon; innovating and designing new clinical trials, collaborating with others and encouraging new investigators to get involved in trials.

There is already a fantastic network of invested clinicians contributing to trials in the UK and an active trainee group. I hope to build on this and am looking forward to supporting the development of future trial questions on the horizon, continuing to build teams and individuals delivering trials and growing connections with other surgical specialities, larger platform trials and including the broader workforce (e.g. theatre staff, nursing, AHPs and beyond).

I would invite anyone with new ideas or in need of support for trials in their region to reach out to me and I look forward to the challenges ahead.



Sobiya Bilal - NNAP Fellow

It is a privilege to be appointed as the NNAP Fellow, and I am delighted to join the programme.

Throughout my training, I have developed a strong interest in clinical outcomes, service evaluation, and the role of high-quality data in improving patient care. Besides my NHS Neurosurgical career, I have had the privilege of working with international non-governmental organisations delivering surgical care in low-resource settings. These experiences highlighted the importance of robust audit and meaningful outcomes data - not only in improving care for individual patients, but also in strengthening health systems more broadly. They have shaped my interest in neurosurgical outcomes research and the use of data to inform service improvement, and I look forward to contributing to the continued development of NNAP while learning from colleagues.



Jonathan Bull - RCS Invited Review Oversight Group Representative
(Representing the SBNS on the RCS Invited Review Oversight Group)

I am very happy to be appointed to the College Invited Review Oversight Group, having been a Consultant at Barts Health since 2013 and had to provide opinions on practice for the GMC and suitability of hospitals for Defence as the Defence Consultant Advisor I have been aware of the work that the IROG undertakes. I am interested in how assessments were made and outcomes measured and am looking forward to contributing to that and inevitably will be looking for people willing to be involved in undertaking any reviews.

SBNS Global Committee



Chris Barrett - Global Committee Chair
I am delighted to have been appointed Chair of the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative. My aim is to build on the excellent work already underway and to widen engagement across the UK and Ireland. Through my involvement with the SBNS, the Royal Colleges, COSECSA and the newly formed International Society of Global Neurosurgery, I have seen the value of international collaboration and genuine, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Global Neurosurgery is an exciting and rapidly evolving field encompassing training, education, research and advocacy. It spans the whole of neurosurgical practice, and everyone has something to contribute. It is very much a two-way process, with learning and professional development on both sides. The generous bequest from Alan and Diana Karter gives us an outstanding opportunity, but it also brings a responsibility to use the money wisely, and to grow the fund through future bequests and charitable donations. We have already supported fellowships, training events and meeting attendance, and we welcome new ideas and suggestions. Our aim is to strengthen our partnerships with colleagues in the Global South and to ensure that the Global Neurosurgery Initiative continues to grow in a sustainable and meaningful way.



Navneet Singh -Global Committee Secretary

I am delighted to be taking up the role of Secretary on the Global Neurosurgery Committee. Having immersed myself in the UK and Ireland neurosurgery training environment I now look forward to continuing the committee's mission in advancing sustainable education and training for neurosurgeons in LMIC's and trainees at home. I am excited to work with colleagues who share a passion for improving neurosurgical care around the world and improving equitable access and outcomes for patients.

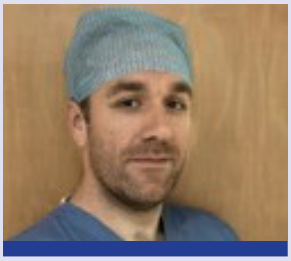
SBNS Global Committee



Salima Wahab - Global Training Lead

I am excited to be taking on the role of training lead for the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative Committee. This is an excellent initiative which I hope to work with the team to expand. The role combines my interest in training and global health. I look forward to working with many of you on existing and future projects.

Sub-Specialty Leads



Ian Anderson - Chair of the British Neuro Vascular Group (BVNG) and SBNS Vascular Lead

Ian is a consultant based in Leeds (having done his fellowship at Kings). He classes himself as a hybrid neurosurgeon having trained in open, endovascular and stereotactic radiosurgery techniques. He is a member of the SAC and a question-writer for the FRCS examination.



Keyoumars Ashkan - SBNS Oncology Lead

Prof Ashkan was appointed to the new position of the neurosurgical representative on the Council of the British Neuro-Oncology Society (BNOS). In this new role, alongside his current position on the Council of the SBNS, he aims to increase collaboration between the BNOS, SBNS and the Royal Colleges. He said this would be a wonderful opportunity to bring together the key stakeholders with the aim of improving the landscape of surgical neuro-oncology in the UK.



Charlotte Hammerbeck-Ward – SBNS Skull base Lead, representing The British Skull Base Society

Charlotte has been an elected SBNS council member since December 2023 and is now the Skull Base subspecialty representative for the SBNS. She was appointed as Secretary of the British Skull Base Society from January 2026, having been a BSBS Council member from 2020 to 2025. She is also Secretary of the BSBS Vestibular Schwannoma Research Group (VSRG) which has supported big data integration of the VS ORION database populated since 2012 to answer questions in VS management, with the first round of papers under submission for publication. She has co-authored 68 peer-reviewed publications and a book chapter focusing on her subspecialty of skull base pathologies, clinical management and basic science.

Charlotte's clinical practice is now based in Brighton. Having been a consultant in Manchester for 9 fantastic years, she relocated back to her old training ground with a passion for improving equity of access for patients across the country (and the bonus of living at the beach). She took over as Clinical Lead for the skull base service and in July 2026 she was appointed as Clinical Director of the recently reformed Neurosciences directorate.

The British Skull Base community is very active through its own council, membership, the VSRG and our yearly meetings and I look forward to updating council on skull base related activities.

Please visit: the Sub-specialty page on the SBNS website to find out more about the Sub-specialty Groups https://www.sbns.org.uk/about-us/special-interest-groups.html



I am Finally Retiring - Goodbye and Thank you!

At the end of October (post-SBNS100), I will be retiring and hanging up my mouse after working for the SBNS for 26 years!

When I started in October 2000, I was the first official SBNS Administrator in the newly established SBNS Office at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Prof. Sir Graham Teasdale and Prof. Nihal Gurusinghe interviewed me for the post, and they were the first SBNS President and Honorary Secretary I worked for. My first SBNS Meeting was in Newcastle in April 2001, and now, 50 meetings later, the SBNS100 will be my last.

The meetings have grown enormously over the years and have gone from strength to strength, whilst still retaining their warm, friendly atmosphere — something that sets them apart from many other medical conferences I have attended. The gala dinner has certainly become more inclusive and much more fun!

During my time at the SBNS I have worked my way through 13 SBNS Presidents and far too many Council members to mention, and I have enjoyed working with every single one of them. The job has been interesting, and I have learned a lot over the years (though you will be relieved to know that I won't be attempting any brain surgery!). However, it has been the lovely people I have met along the way who have made me want to stay working for the Society for so long.



What I hope life after the SBNS will be like

I will miss the SBNS members, many of whom I have got to know well over the years. They have all shown me great kindness and generosity, and I will always be grateful for that.

It will probably feel very strange not working after all these years, but I am looking forward to spending time with my four grandchildren, gardening, exploring the world with my husband (John, SBNS Photographer), relaxing, and sipping G&Ts to my heart's content!

Cheers!
Suzanne Murray ("admin1")

I too am Retiring!

Suzanne and I both felt that the centenary meeting of the SBNS would be a good time to retire and hand over the reins to new hands working alongside Alix and Kelly.



My first presentation for the SBNS was in Brighton in 1998. I was an ultrasonographer, teaching myself how to image the intracranial vessels, identify aneurysms and move into a new world of neurosurgical research. It obviously fuelled my interest as I have never left!

I continued to attend and present at SBNS meetings until, in 2014, I was appointed as the SBNS Research Manager, at which point I felt I had joined the family! Since then, I have visited all the units around the UK and Ireland and worked with 3 supportive Academic Committee Chairs, Peter Hutchinson (Hutch), Michael Jenkinson (Jenks) and Paul Brennan. I have met so many people all of whom I will miss. I have learnt so much, not least, how to cajole neurosurgeons to help me with scoring abstracts /essays and chair sessions at conferences. The SBNS100 conference necessitates over 100 chairs so thank you everyone!

It will be a new era, but I will enjoy playing tennis more, seeing more of the family and, like Suzanne, drinking lots of wine and gin and tonics, not necessarily in that order!



Partying - What I hope Suzanne and I will be doing when we retire at the end of October

Carole Turner
SBNS Research Manager

Sad Farewell

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of three SBNS Members.



Lawrence V. Zrinzo

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mr Lawrence V. Zrinzo, who passed away on September 10, 2026 - his 81st birthday.

Born in Malta on September 10, 1945, Lawrence was inspired to become a neurosurgeon by a magazine article on neuroscience. He graduated MD from the Royal University of Malta in 1969 and travelled to Newcastle on a scholarship, training first as a neurologist under Lord Walton, then in neurosurgery in Leeds under Professor Robert Myles Gibson. In 1982, he returned to Malta to establish a neurosurgery service at St Luke's Hospital.

Malta's first consultant neurosurgeon, Lawrence introduced the country's first CT and MRI scanners and its angio-suite, enabling procedures on cerebral aneurysms and vascular malformations. In 1985, he saved the lives of several patients shot in the head during the hijacking of an EgyptAir plane.

A passionate educator, Lawrence served as Senior Lecturer in Neuroanatomy at the University of Malta, inspiring generations of students - many now leaders in their field - with lectures as rich in philosophy as in science.

In 2013, he was appointed Member of the National Order of Merit for his contribution to Maltese medical science. Tributes from former patients have consistently praised his humanity, kindness, and compassion, alongside his skill as a surgeon. Lawrence is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years, Sylvia, a neuroradiologist; his son Ludvic and wife Marie, both neurosurgeons at Queen Square, London; his daughter Danielle and husband Christian; and five grandchildren he adored - Ella, Leo, Holly, Zoë, and Estelle.

Ludvic Zrinzo



Robert Myles Gibson

Professor Robert Myles Gibson, passed away on Tuesday 11th August, aged 99. He was a remarkable surgeon, educator and pioneer whose outstanding contributions to neurosurgery and pre-hospital care have left a lasting legacy. He played a pivotal role in establishing pre-hospital emergency medicine as a medical speciality, laying the foundations for the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care in 1996 and serving as its first Chairman for six years.

Training under Sir Hugh Cairns in Oxford and Norman Dott in Edinburgh, he moved to Leeds to develop and pioneer neurosurgery as a consultant from 1960 until his retirement in 1992. He also created the regional neurosurgical service at Pinderfield's Hospital, Wakefield before the two services were amalgamated in Leeds.

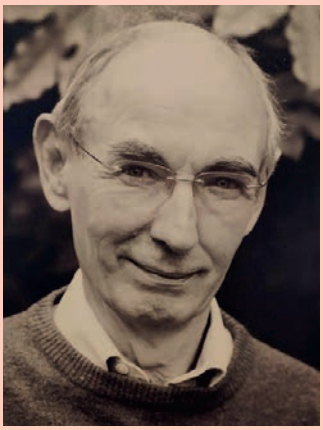
In addition to his other achievements, he improved the emergency medical provision in professional football through the influential Gibson report, serving as honorary neurosurgeon to the British Army and Royal Household. He received the OBE in 1992 and the Society of British Neurological Surgeons Medal in 2023.

Professor Gibson is survived by his wife Ena, son Alastair and daughter Stroma.

He will be remembered with great affection and respect by his family, friends and colleagues and by the many patients whose lives he touched throughout his distinguished career.

Jake Timothy SBNS Council Member

Sad Farewell



Robin Illingworth

Robin Illingworth, retired Consultant Neurosurgeon, passed away on 24 June at the age of 91.

Having initially considered a career in farming or architecture, Robin was encouraged by his father, a General Practitioner, to pursue medicine. He subsequently entered Middlesex Medical School.

Following his surgical training, National Service called for three years. During this time, he rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. Having previously obtained his pilot's license in a Tiger Moth aircraft, he became highly proficient in aerobatics.

On returning to the NHS, he undertook neurosurgical training at the Maida Vale and National Hospitals for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square. In 1970, he completed a one-year fellowship at the Hôpital Notre-Dame in Montreal, Canada.

Mr Illingworth was appointed Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Central Middlesex Hospital and subsequently became Senior Neurosurgeon at Charing Cross Hospital, where he served until his retirement in 1995.

A consummate and highly skilled surgeon, Robin was an outstanding clinician with a mastery of surgical technique. He practised across the full spectrum of neurosurgery, including adult and paediatric cranial and spinal surgery. He developed expertise and interest in skull base tumours and the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia.

Outside neurosurgery, Robin enjoyed a wide range of interests, including ornithology, travel, art, classical music, and literature. He was a man of great curiosity whose interests extended far beyond medicine.

Robin was predeceased by his beloved wife, Jean. He is survived by his two sons, Peter and Christopher, and by his cherished grandchildren.

He will be remembered with affection and respect by his family, friends, colleagues, and the many patients whose lives he touched throughout a distinguished career.

Nigel Mendoza SBNS President Elect



Jeremy Rowe

Jeremy Rowe, a consultant neurosurgeon at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, passed away on 20 June 2026.

Jeremy was a pioneering functional neurosurgeon and among the earliest advocates of Gamma Knife stereotactic radiosurgery. He played a pivotal role in advancing the use of this technology, particularly in the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia, and was instrumental in establishing stereotactic radiosurgery as an important treatment option for patients with intracranial tumours. His clinical expertise and unwavering commitment to patient care were especially evident in his work with patients affected by vestibular schwannomas and meningiomas.

Beyond his outstanding clinical achievements, Jeremy was a dedicated educator, trusted mentor, and respected leader whose influence extended far beyond his own institution. His commitment to innovation, excellence in clinical practice, and the advancement of stereotactic radiosurgery helped shape the specialty both nationally and internationally.

Jeremy's contributions to neurosurgery have left an enduring legacy. He will be remembered not only for the countless patients whose lives he improved, but also for the many colleagues and trainees he inspired through his generosity, wisdom, and leadership.

Jeremy was extremely well read, with an impressive knowledge of ancient history, travel, wine, and food. These interests were reflected in his excellent wine collection and his enthusiasm and talent for cooking.

His family, colleagues, and collaborators around the world are mourning his loss while celebrating his remarkable career and the lasting impact he had on our profession.

Stana Bojanic Consultant Neurosurgeon, Oxford

Congratulations


Barrie White

SBNS Medal Awarded to Barrie White

Barrie White, Consultant Neurosurgeon from Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham was awarded the SBNS Medal at the SBNS/BNRG Harrogate conference, April 2026, in recognition for his exceptional clinical leadership and contributions to British neurosurgery.

As Assistant Medical Director, past SBNS Vice President, and a principal author of the SBNS Clinical Standards Document, Barrie pioneered national neurosurgical quality standards and benchmarking methods that laid the foundations for today's National Neurosurgery Audit Programme (NNAP). He also made major contributions to CEPOD, Healthcare Resource Groups, the National Service Framework for Older People, and NICE.

For more than 20 years, Barrie has played influential leadership roles within NICE, including Vice-Chair of the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee and Chair of national guideline development groups. His work has shaped practice far beyond neurosurgery, particularly in spinal cord compression, patient experience, and variant CJD guidance.

An executive member of the British Association of Spinal Surgeons and an internationally respected expert in complex spinal disorders, Barrie has inspired generations of neurosurgeons through his clinical excellence, innovation, and unwavering commitment to patient care. At 70, he continues to provide elective and emergency neurosurgical care, exemplifying a lifetime of service that makes him a truly deserving recipient of the SBNS Medal.

Surajit Basu
SBNS Treasurer



2026 CNSF Penfield Lecture Certificate

Professor Hutchinson attended the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Congress in Banff, Alberta in May and delivered the annual Penfield lecture established in 1979 to honour pioneering neurosurgeon Dr. Wilder Penfield, renowned for mapping the human brain and advances in epilepsy surgery.

The Canadian Neurological Sciences Congress is the annual meeting of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation and constituent societies including The Canadian Neurological Society, Canadian Neurosurgical Society, The Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists, The Canadian Association of Child Neurology, The Canadian Society of Neuroradiology and The Canadian Stroke Consortium.



Gwynedd Pickett and Peter Hutchinson

Professor Hutchinson's lecture **"Rescuing the Injured Brain"** recognised the achievements of UK and Irish Neurosurgical Centres in conducting translational and clinical research. Professor Hutchinson received the 2026 CNSF Penfield Lecture Certificate from Dr Gwynedd Pickett, President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society.

National Selection Winners



Eleanor Moncur - 2025



Youssef Chedid - 2026

Congratulations to Eleanor Moncur (2025) and Youssef Chedid (2026) on achieving the highest score in the national neurosurgical selection process. This is an outstanding accomplishment in an exceptionally competitive field.

In recognition of this remarkable achievement, they have been awarded the prestigious Junior Neurosurgical Trainees Award from the Barrow Foundation UK. The award includes up to two weeks at the Barrow Neurological Institute in the USA. They also receive an invitation to the SBNS 100 Gala Dinner, where they will be presented with their certificates by the SBNS President.

Sir Hugh Cairns Essay Prize



Daniel McSweeney

The winner of this year's Sir Hugh Cairns Essay Prize was Daniel McSweeney for his essay, "Monitoring of Microsurgically and Endovascularly Treated Aneurysms (META) Study". The Sir Hugh Cairns Essay Prize, worth £1,000, is awarded annually and is open to all Associate Members of the SBNS at the time of submission. The topic may be any aspect of neurosurgery, other than trauma, and must be based on original, unpublished material or observations.

The deadline for submissions for next year's prize is 30th April 2027, and the winner will be announced in the summer. The winner will have the opportunity to present their paper at an SBNS meeting and will receive a complimentary gala dinner ticket, where they will be presented with their prize certificate by the SBNS President.

For more information on the SBNS Essay prizes on offer please visit the Education page of the SBNS website.

Future Leadership Programme

Cathal Hannan will be the next SBNS Sponsored neurosurgeon to participate in the next RCSEd Future Leaders Programme (FLP) cohort where he will undertake a structured 12-month development journey designed explicitly to translate leadership into better patient outcomes. Across four intensive modules (Personal, Technical, Relational and Contextual Leadership) delivered through a blend of online and face-to-face forums in Edinburgh and Birmingham. The Future Leaders will build a practical skill set in self-awareness, leading change, conflict management, influencing organisational culture and navigating NHS systems.

Previous cohorts have used this framework to create projects that deliver lasting improvements in quality, safety and cost-effectiveness, while also producing a personal development plan, reflective portfolio and educational outputs hosted by RCSEd. Funding from SBNS therefore represents a direct investment in the next generation of neurosurgical leaders: it enables one of our members to access high-level leadership training that they would not otherwise receive, and in return the Society and its patients gain a consultant-level neurosurgeon equipped to lead multidisciplinary teams, drive service innovation, mentor colleagues and champion a just, learning-focused culture within UK neurosurgery.

"I am very grateful for the support of the SBNS in sponsoring me to participate in the Future Leaders Program (FLP). I have been lucky to have had excellent clinical and academic neurosurgical training thus far, but I have yet to receive any formal training in leadership and management. The FLP comes very highly recommended and offers senior trainees an insight into their own management style, as well as providing formal training on how to implement change and manage teams

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

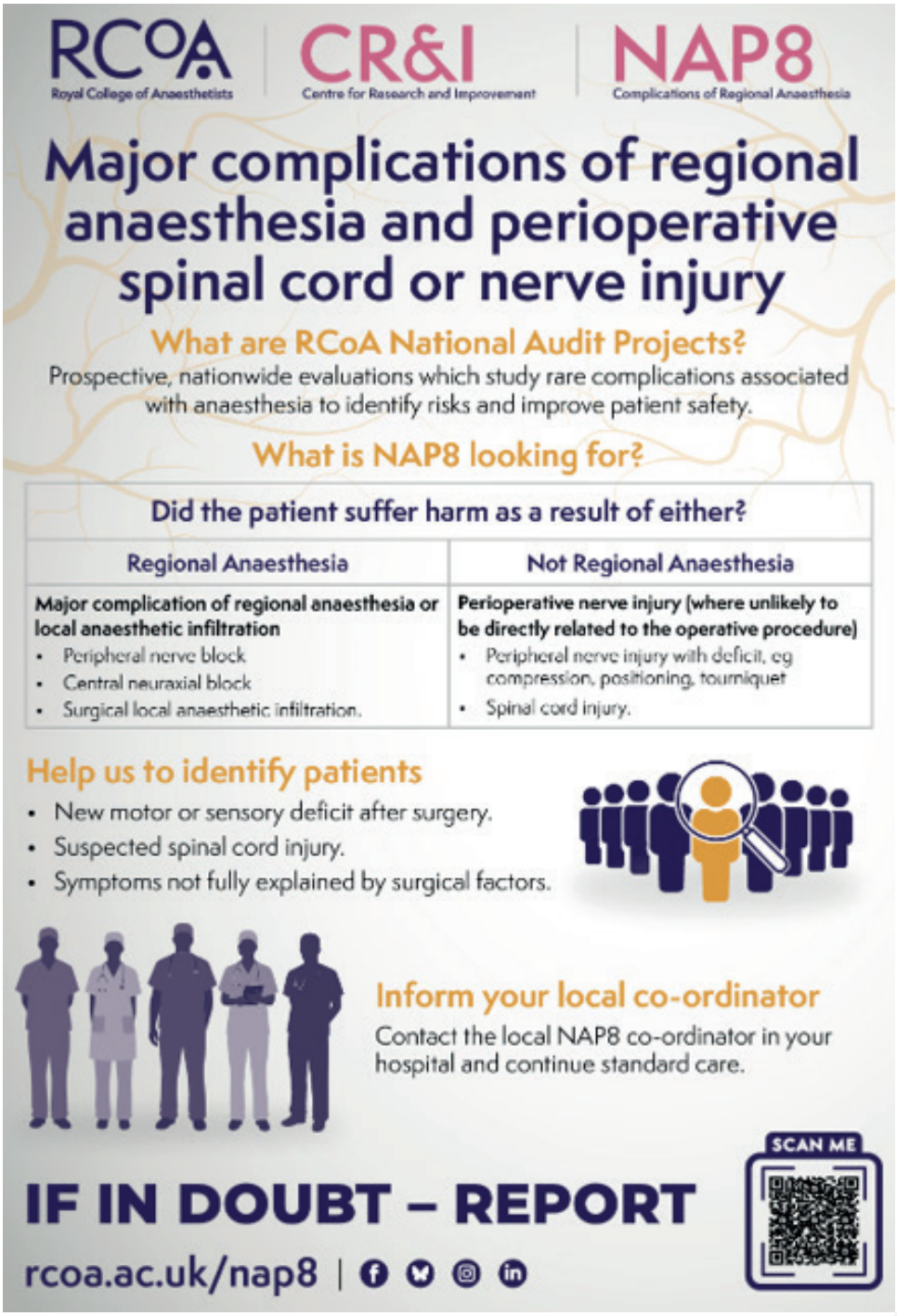


Cathal Hannan

within the complex environment of modern healthcare systems. Under the auspices of the FLP, I intend to deliver a structured training program for junior-mid level neurosurgical trainees on basic skull base approaches, covering both the underlying theory and practical implementation in theatre. I am also grateful to Mr. Scott Rutherford, who will act as my programme ally and fellowship supervisor, for his support in implementing this programme"

Cathal Hannan

RCoA and CR&I 8th National Audit Project - Can you Help?



The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) and the Centre for Research and Improvement (CR&I are seeking support for their 8th National Audit Project (NAP8), which will study major complications of regional anaesthesia and perioperative nerve injury. Because these injuries are often identified after anaesthetic care, the project relies on engagement from surgeons, physicians and allied health professionals. Supporting NAP8 will improve understanding of nerve injury, strengthen cross-specialty collaboration and enhance patient safety.

SCAN ME

SBNS 100 Conference 12th - 16th October 2026 Update



The SBNS100 Meetings Committee has been planning the SBNS100 celebratory conference for several years, and we can't believe it is almost upon us. We are all very excited (and exhausted), but we are sure it will be a meeting to remember. The small group of founding members back in 1926 would be amazed to see how much the SBNS has grown and developed over the past century and how far our specialty has progressed.

The theme of the meeting is Past, Present and Future, and the Meetings Committee has put together a comprehensive scientific programme covering all aspects of neurosurgery – reflecting on our history and achievements while looking ahead to the future of our specialty, including clinical practice, training and cutting-edge research including AI!

The programme includes contributions from SBNS members across the UK and Ireland, invited speakers from around the world, and colleagues from the wider neuroscience community: spinal surgery, neurology, neuroradiology, neuro-infectious diseases, neuroanaesthesia, neuro-intensive care, neuropathology and neurorehabilitation. We are also pleased to welcome several neuroscience organisations, including BASS, ABN, NACCS, BANN, NANSIG, EANS, WFNS and the Royal Colleges. The Neurosurgical Sub-Specialty Groups, along with several SBNS Committees – NNAP, Safe Neurosurgery, EDI, Global and Academic Committee will also be running dedicated sessions throughout the four-day event.



We were amazed to receive 1,064 abstracts submissions, the majority of which we have been able to accommodate in the programme as either oral presentations or oral posters. We were especially pleased to receive a large number of international submissions, many of which were from colleagues who have worked or trained in the UK and Ireland.

The Eponymous Lectures will be delivered by three excellent presenters:

Gail Rosseau (USA)
Resilience and Leadership: Lessons for Our Times from the Life of Sir Winston Churchill

Geoff Bunn (UK)
The Snake That Bit Its Own Tail: Tourette, His Syndrome, and the Theatre of Hysteria

Ciaran Bolger (Ireland)
Thinking about the Brain 1926-2026 and Beyond

You can review at the SBNS100 Programme on the SBNS100 Event page to see what's on offer - there really is

something for everyone - workshops, debates, free paper sessions, posters - far too many features to mention!

We are also running a fantastic selection of free Public Events over four evenings which we hope will introduce the public to the world of neuroscience, brain surgery and brain health. The first is aimed specifically at schoolchildren. If you have a young family, why not bring them also and tell their friends. It's free, but you must prebook online via the Public Events section on the SBNS100 event page on the SBNS website.

Here is a glimpse of what's on offer – please spread the word in your units and to your friends and colleagues.

Monday 12th October | 17:00-19:00
Teach Yourself Brain Surgery with TV favourite Dr Alex Van Tulleken (Operation Ouch!). A fun and interactive session for ages 8 - 90!

Delegates attending the Main meeting should also register separately for the public events via the public events tab for the sessions they wish to attend.

Tuesday 13th October | 17:45-18:45
Henry Marsh, neurosurgeon and renowned author of **Do No Harm & Jo Mo Crazy,** international skier who has recovered from a traumatic brain injury.

An inspiring session exploring neurosurgery, recovery and life after traumatic brain injury.

SBNS 100 Conference 12th - 16th October 2026 Update

Wednesday 14th October | 17:30-18:30
How to Protect Your Brain

Meet the Experts

Chaired by Prof. Mark Wilson OBE and Katie Gilkes

Claire Barker - helmet safety
Jean Adams - diet and the brain
Georgia Turner - social media and the brain
Gill Livingston - how to prevent dementia

18:30-18:40

Music, Brain Surgery and Patient-Centred Care - meet the patient and the surgeon.

Deep Brain Stimulation – brain surgery while awake! Meet the surgeon and the patient: Prof Keyoumars Ashkan MBE and Denise Bacon

Thursday 15th October | 17:00-17:40
Gemini Untwined - hear the remarkable story of conjoined twins who were successfully separated at birth through pioneering surgery. Meet surgeons Prof Owase Jeelani and Prof. Richard Hayward and the teenage twins, Rital and Rita Gaboura (https://geminiuntwined.org/).

Alongside the academic programme, we have two great social events planned.

The Welcome Reception - Tuesday 13th October - will take place at the conference venue. A great opportunity to catch up with colleagues from around the UK, Ireland and overseas.

UK and Ireland Unit Poster Display - Prior to the start of the Welcome Reception, there will be an opportunity to view a poster display of the UK Neurosurgical units, showcasing their assets, achievements and history. This is being co-ordinated by SBNS Archivist, Richard Gullan. He is hoping that all UK and Irish neurosurgical units will be represented, so if you haven't already submitted a poster from your unit, please do so.

The Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum will, of course, be the social highlight of the conference. As well as the spectacular venue and great menu, we have some fantastic after-dinner entertainment lined up. So, dust off your tuxedos, evening gowns and high heels, and get ready for a night to remember!



The Gala Dinner – Natural History Museum

The event has proved extremely popular, and all 650 tickets sold very quickly, which took us by surprise. We are very sorry if you were one of the unlucky ones that missed out!

There will also be an extensive trade exhibition showcasing all the latest innovations as well as representation from the Neurosurgery related charities the society has supported over the years. Do take time during the breaks to visit the stands.

The SBNS Meetings Committee look forward to welcoming you all to this celebratory event in Ocotber . Thank you to everyone for your contributions and support.

BUILDING NEUROSURGERY EXHIBITION - A century of progress - A future still being built.

At the Royal Society of Medicine 1st October - 24th December 2026

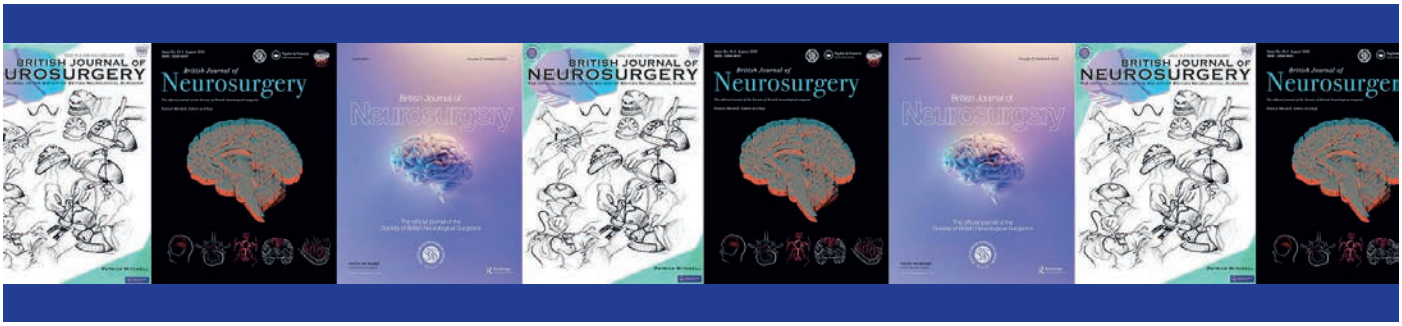


Royal Society of Medicine

SBNS Archivist's, Jonathan Pollock and Richard Gullan, together with the Royal Society of Medicine have organised an exhibition to celebrate 100 years of the Society of Neurological Surgeons and British Neurosurgery.

From risky beginnings in the 19th century to the cutting-edge neuroscience of today, Building Neurosurgery tells the story of a remarkable century of discovery, innovation, and pioneering surgeons.

Discover the breakthroughs that transformed the specialty - from cerebral localisation and the pioneering work of David Ferrier to the global influence of





Nothing could be achieved without a Cuppa! James Sloan Robertson (Glasgow, left) and Martin Nichols (Aberdeen, right), pictured in 1959

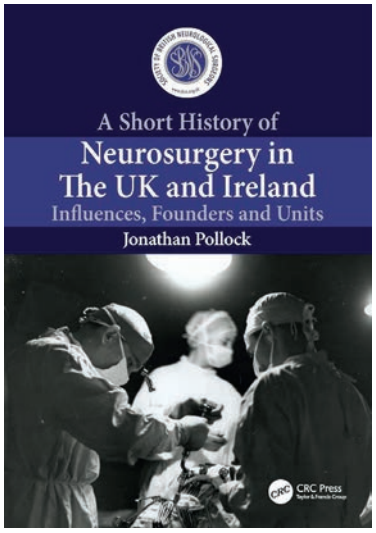
Harvey Cushing and the founding of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons in 1926.

Explore wartime innovation, the development of modern neurosurgical services, and Twenty-first Century Frontiers - research shaping the future of neurosurgery.

Come along and view the exhibits either in conjunction with your attendance of the SBNS100 conference or when you have some free time. It is open to the public Monday to Friday 9:30 to 5.30 pm at the Royal Society of Medicine Library, 1 Wimpole Street W1G 0AE.

Lunch For Senior SBNS Members "Neurosurgical Grandees"

The SBNS Archivists are also arranging a lunch on Monday 12th October at the RSM for Senior Members (Neurosurgical Grandees). If you missed the invite and are interested in attending, please contact Richard Gullan richardgullan@hotmail.com or Kelly Caley kelly.caley@sbns.org.uk for more information.



SBNS History Book

To commemorate the SBNS 100th Anniversary, Jonathan Pollock, SBNS Archivist, has been working tirelessly on a new history book for the Society (1926-2026), building on the work of the late Tom King, whose original book covered the period 1926-1990.

Jonathan has undertaken a tremendous amount of research, delving into the SBNS archives and interviewing pioneering senior neurosurgeons. He has brought together their stories in a fascinating new history book, A Short History of Neurosurgery in the UK and Ireland: Influences, Founders and Units, recently published by CRS Press.

The book is available through Amazon and Routledge, or you can purchase a copy at a discounted rate the SBNS100 Meeting. Jonathan will be speaking at the conference and signing copies at on Tuesday 13th October. It's a great opportunity to discover more about the history of neurosurgery in the UK and Ireland - and to meet the author himself!

All proceeds will go to the SBNS to support its charitable work.

SPECIAL EDITION – BRITISH JOURNAL OF NEUROSURGERY

The last issue of the BJNS (the official journal of the SBNS) for 2026, will be a special issue featuring articles on the Future of Neurosurgery to commemorate our 100th Anniversary. It will consist of nine articles covering robotics and surgical augmentation, mixed reality navigation, brain-computer interfaces, neuroprosthetics, advanced therapeutic medicinal products, and the future of neurosurgery trials. The cover will also be a special one.

A must-read! A paper copy will be available in delegate bags at SBNS100.

Academic Papers over the Past 100 Years

Many thanks to all SBNS members who provided suggestions of significant academic papers published by UK neurosurgeons over the last 100 years that have influenced surgical practice and our understanding of disease. The long list has been curated by Paul Brennan (AC Chair), Carole Turner (Academic Manager), and Michael Jenkinson into "A History of UK and Irish Neurosurgery in 100 Papers."

We hope that you enjoy the selection and are inspired by the remarkable academic and clinical achievements of our colleagues and predecessors.

A copy of the collection will shortly be available on the SBNS website and the SBNS Conference app - and we hope you agree with our selection!

Paul Brennan
SBNS Academic Chair

SBNS Patron



Thank you to everyone who has become a patron since the launch or made a donation. We now have 20 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze Patrons!

We really appreciate your support and generosity. Your names have been listed on the SBNS website and will also be displayed at the SBNS 100 meeting.

You can still become one! This campaign is ongoing, so there is still an opportunity to become an SBNS Patron and add your name to the list by scanning the QR code or visiting the SBNS Patron page on the SBNS website:

https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/sbns-100/sbns-patron.html

Donate and Help Others



Establish your legacy, "give back" and avoid tax!

"Every man has two deaths, when he is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his name" Ernest Hemingway.

You cannot do much about your first death, but you can do something about your second one and you will usually be able to reduce your tax bill at the same time. What's not to like?

It works like this: The SBNS is a charity, if you gift money to a charity, you should be able to reduce your inheritance tax, capital gains tax and / or income tax liabilities.

There is a whole raft of ways to do this - dying and leaving a gift in your will is just one of them, ask your accountant about gift aid, gifting assets that have accrued a capital gain, legacy giving, donor advised funds and deeds of variation.

The SBNS Bootcamps are a critically important part of neurosurgical training, they gel year groups together and give trainees a real sense of belonging but these camps are also expensive to run and are under threat, the SBNS is keen to secure the bootcamps' future by establishing a fund and using the returns from this fund to pay for places.

To make it attractive the SBNS will offer you the opportunity to set up an award in your name and (within reason) you will be able to "restrict" it however you wish. So as an example, you might want to establish "The Joe Bloggs award" for people training in Neurosurgery in Scotland.

We are putting an explanatory brochure together and will send this to all members in the next few months but already several people that have expressed interest, so we think this is quite likely to be a popular offer. Do contact the office if you would like more information.



Simon Thomson
SBNS Fundraiser Lead

SBNS National Simulation Training Courses



ST1 - Royal Preston Hospital - 18th-21st August 2026

The 13th Neurosurgery National ST1 Simulation Training Camp (aka "Bootcamp") was organised at Royal Preston Hospital on 18th-21st August 2025 by Mr Arup Ray and Mr Isaac Phang.

This annual event, organised on behalf of the SBNS, invited all the appointed ST1 trainees for 2026 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 specialty. Faculty members attended 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 and appreciated by the trainees.

The next ST1 Simulation Training Camp has been provisionally booked for 16th - 19th August 2027. Mark your diaries!

ST6 National simulation training, UHCW, Coventry 18th -21st May 2026

The aim of this training camp is to familiarise senior trainees with more complex cranial approaches and to provide


The ST6 Faculty


The trainees in action

an unparalleled opportunity to understand white matter organisation within the brain. Cadaveric material is used throughout the course. Feedback from the first two courses has been excellent, and we aim to provide another world-class training experience next year.

The dates for the ST6 Simulation Training Camp have been set for 19th–23rd April 2027. The training leads are Mr Sanjeeva Jeyaretna and Professor Puneet Plaha from Oxford. Mr Sandeep Solanki is the local course host.

Please can all ST6-level trainees mark these dates in their diaries and apply for study leave. More information will follow in due course. Spaces are limited.

T3 – 2nd-6th November 2026

The next ST3 Simulation Course takes place at the University Hospital Coventry & West Midlands Surgical Training Centre, UK, 2nd-6th November 2026. It will be run by Mr Sandeep Solanki, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Course Director, JCST-SAC Simulation Lead for ST3.

ST7/8 2027 The next ST7/8 Stimulation Course, aka "Finishing School, is run by Ms. K. Whitehouse, SBNS Council Member and SBNS EDI Chair. It is run every two years, and the next one will be held in 2027. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Traumatic Brain Injury Gains Momentum at the 79th World Health Assembly In Geneva



The Global Coalition for Traumatic Brain Injury meeting with ministers

An estimated 69 million people around the world experience TBI, across all ages. It's the leading cause of death and disability in people under 40, with a disproportionate impact on those living in low- and middle-income countries.

UK researchers from the SBNS Global Initiative and NIHR Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury are proud to be co-leading an international collaborative – the Global Coalition for TBI – and we are advocating for TBI to be recognised as a notifiable and chronic condition, firmly placing it at the centre of global health policy.

On Sunday 17th May 2026, a team of academics and clinicians from UK (NIHR Research Group and SBNS) were part of a delegation at the 79th World Health Assembly hosting a Side Event on recognising TBI as a chronic and notifiable condition as part of the Global Coalition for TBI (tbicoalition.com). The Global Coalition for TBI brings together over 130 organisations and several member states, all working with a shared goal.

The event was supported by the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injury (https://new.absi.world/), co-led by Prof Hutchinson and Prof Tony Figaji (Cape Town). Prof Tariq Khan and Dr Almas. Khattak (Peshawar, Pakistan). Special thanks go to Sara Venturini who led the publication of the accompanying manuscript: https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(26)00063-X/fulltext

The event was also supported by the G4 Alliance and Dr Gail Rosseau, chair of the Board of Directors. The SBNS is a member of the G4 Alliance advocating for advances in global surgical, obstetric, trauma and anesthesia care. Dr Rosseau is delivering the Geoffrey Jefferson lecture at SBNS 100.

Initiatives like this are important as they expand beyond the academic context alone and reach other audiences including decision makers and those heavily involved in health policy.

Our event brought together a range of key stakeholders including academics, patients with lived experience, Ministries of Health, WHO representatives and more, engaging in discussions about why a resolution on TBI is timely and essential. Ministries of Health and their representatives from Pakistan, Cambodia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, South Sudan, Tanzania and Qatar all featured in panel discussions in support of a TBI resolution, highlighting how this is relevant to their respective countries, and asking for global collaboration.



Prof Peter Hutchinson in discussion with the Director-General of the WHO – Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyous

The Director General and the Acting Regional Emergencies Director of the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Office also spoke in support of the initiative, emphasising the importance of better prevention, surveillance, and treatment for TBI in the region.

Patients with lived experience were at the centre of the discussion too, with two TBI survivors sharing their personal stories, which are complemented by the TBI Storybook a free resource created by the TBI coalition showing TBI testimonials from all over the world.

Working towards a major policy change like this takes continuous effort over years. Our work has included a side event on TBI held at the 78th World Health Assembly in 2025, and recent publication of a Viewpoint paper in the Lancet Global Health, highlighting the reason why TBI belongs to the global health agenda.

Great momentum was generated during the 79th WHA, and there is now a clear path towards proposing a TBI resolution next year at the 80th WHA in May 2027.

Chris Barrett
SBNS Global Committee Chair

The NIHR Research Group and SBNS members at the World Health Assembly



UK collaborators at the 79th WHA: Prof Peter Hutchinson, Mr Alexis Joannides, Miss Sara Venturini, Dr Tom Bashford, Dr Brandon Smith, Dr Laura Hobbs, Dr Tamara Banerjee, Dr Shobhana Nagraj, Miss Saniya Mediratta, Prof Charlie Whiffin, Jay Rav. Internat

2nd WFNS Global Neurosurgery and 1st ISGNS Conference 15TH-18TH April 2026

A joint conference between the WFNS Global Neurosurgery group and the newly formed International Society for Global Neurosurgery (ISGNS) took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 15th to 18th April 2026. This meeting followed the first WFNS Global Neurosurgery Conference in Peshawar, Pakistan in 2024, and was organised by the WFNS Global Neurosurgery committee and the Tanzanian Neurosurgical Society. The theme was 'Global neurosurgery, impact and challenges in LMICs: uniting minds and transforming care'.

Prof Peter Hutchinson in discussion with the Director-General of the WHO – Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyous

A wide range of pre-conference activities preceded the main meeting, including surgical camps, training courses, and workshops spanning research, nursing, critical care, neurorehabilitation, and epilepsy surgery. The Dar es Salaam head injury charity walk on 12th April really caught the imagination: motorcyclists in high visibility vests wearing (or waving) crash helmets, while chanting the Swahili slogan 'Vaa helmet, ubongo hauna spea!' (Wear a helmet, your brain has no spare!). This will now become an annual public engagement event in Tanzania, to be held every April.

The main conference opened with a high-profile ceremony attended by the President of Tanzania, reflecting the growing visibility and importance of global neurosurgery. The scientific programme was organised thematically, beginning with advocacy, and progressing through leadership, partnerships, research, and training. The quality of speakers was consistently high, and panel discussions allowed meaningful audience engagement.

The centrepiece and conclusion of the meeting was the formal launch of the International Society for Global Neurosurgery (ISGNS), with the election of its inaugural board:

- President: Kee Park (US)
- President-elect: Gail Rousseau (US)
- Vice President: Beverley Cheserem (Kenya)
- Secretary: Happiness Rabiel (Tanzania)
- Treasurer: Eylem Ocal (US)
- Director at large: Kemel Ghotme (Colombia)
- Director at large: Hamisi Shabani (Tanzania)
- Past President: Tariq Khan

The meeting provided a useful overview of the evolution of global neurosurgery, with early models based on short-term delivery of direct care increasingly giving way to more sustainable approaches focused on education, training, research, and advocacy. There are now numerous active partnerships between high and low and middle-income institutions, and the UK is well represented in this space, coordinated through the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative. The formation of the ISGNS represents an important step forward in field, with many opportunities for future collaboration.



Chris Barrett
SBNS Global Committee Chair

SBNS Spring Meeting, 15th-17th April 2026



The SBNS 2026 Spring Meeting was the first joint meeting with the British Neurosurgical Research Group (BNRG) and was led by the BNRG Meetings Lead, Stephen Price, the SBNS Vice President, Prof. Michael Jenkinson and the SBNS Meetings Committee. It provided an excellent opportunity for clinicians and researchers to come together to present and discuss their work, as well as to explore opportunities for future collaborative projects. The theme of the meeting was "Neurosurgery Research: From Hypothesis to Implementation."

As the event was not hosted by a Neurosurgical Unit, the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was chosen as the venue as it offered excellent accommodation and conference facilities under one roof, as well as a central location within the UK. The social events were also within walking distance, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere that encouraged delegates to interact both during and outside the conference sessions.

The meeting began on Tuesday with a joint pre-meeting symposium organised by the British Neurosurgical Trainees Association (BNTA) and the British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative (BNTRC), entitled "Designing Research Studies and Obtaining Funding." Unfortunately, attendance was low due to trainees signing up but then not turning up on the day, those who participated found the session highly beneficial, gaining valuable insights into developing research studies and securing funding for new projects.

The research theme continued with the Lifelong Learning Session, "Getting Research and New Innovations into Clinical Practice." The remainder of the meeting followed the familiar SBNS format, with the plenary talk for each free paper session focusing on the major unanswered clinical research questions within each subspecialty. The aim was not only to showcase current research but also to stimulate discussion and inspire the development of future collaborative studies.

There was also an interesting Debate session - Should neurosurgical trainees be encouraged to do basic science or clinical research? Despite photo evidence, it was an amicable debate and there were some good points in favour of both aspects.

GE Health Care and Baxter also ran two very successful lunchtime workshops which were well attended.



Participants of the debate - Catherine McMahon, Michael Jenkinson and Ryan Mathew

The Keynote Speakers were all excellent and their talks were well received.

Sir Victory Horsley Lecture - Jane Blazeby, Professor of Surgery - "Improving the Quality of Surgical Trials"



Jane Blazeby

Alan and Diana Karter (Global) Lecture - Rajiv Jha, President, Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons – "Neurosurgery in Nepal: A Shared UK-Nepal Experience"



Alistair Jenkins and Rajiv Jha

Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture - Steve Pollard, Associate Director, Cancer Research UK

Scotland Centre; Director, Brain Cancer Centre of Excellence – "Harnessing the core transcriptional program sustaining glioblastomas to deliver viral immunotherapy"



Steve Pollard

Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture - George Malliaras, Prince Philip Professor of Technology – "Bioelectronic medicine: what's next?"



George Malliaras

The abstract submissions were of a very high standard and were divided into oral and short oral talks. We did not have posters for this meeting. Prizes were awarded to the presenters listed below. They each received a £100 book voucher courtesy of: the Mare Nostrum Group and will also receive a free gala dinner ticket for the SBNS Spring meeting in Glasglow where they will be presented with a certificate by the SBNS President.

Congratulations!


Sheikh Muktadir Bin Momin

Best Oral
Sheikh Muktadir Bin Momin for his abstract:

"Objective biomarkers of sports-related concussion and recovery: protocol for the Podium Multimodal Concussion Study"


Gregory Kosisochukwu Anyaegbunam

Best Short Oral
Gregory Kosisochukwu Anyaegbunam for his abstract:

"A single centre retrospective review of consent conformity to professional standard for lumbar surgery (microdiscectomy and decompression); what can we learn?"

Talking Slides!
Capture, Create, Communicate.

Recording of Presentations and Photographs If you missed any of the sessions presented at the SBNS/BNRG Harrogate 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

PJN PHOTOGRAPHY

To view the photos taken at the meeting can be accessed via the conference Archive page on the SBNS website or you can click here.

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

John Murray
07804 610 179
john@pnjphotography.com

The Social events were fabulous as usual, the informal Welcome reception on Wednesday night was held at the Cold Bath Brewery, and the Gala dinner was held at the Royal Hall. The Photo Gallery on page 26-27 are a few of the photos from the events. We also had a fun run – though some who took part looked, did look a little worse for wear at the end!

View the photo gallery on the pages 26-27

Photo Gallery



The brilliant AV team enjoying a well-deserved beer.

The photos take at the meeting can be accessed via the Conference Archive page on the SBNS website or you can click here.

If you would like to purchase prints of any of the photos, please contact: John Murray - 07804 610179
john@pnjphotography.com

Talking Slides!
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https://sbns.talkingslideshd.com/home



Welcome Reception



SBNS beer!



The Fun Run early Thursday morning was led by Michael Jenkinson – most of delegates were too hungover from the night at the Cold Bath Brewery to join in - but the core SBNS Officers managed to put on their trainers and show off their running skills.



The SBNS Meetings Secretary, Sam Hettige taking the lead!



Antony Kaldas
Short Oral Winner - Bristol SBNS



Salim El Hadwe
Poster winner - Bristol SBNS



Kanza Tariq
Diana Beck Essay Prize



Saba Raza-Knight
Norman Dott Medal Winner

Prize Winners



The magnificent Royal Hall



The Leeds consultants, managed to put on a good show.



The SBNS Admin Team with the Intouch team, Jen and Julie, the President and Meetings Secretary



Doing the Hokey Cokey



The Nottingham Crew - very proud of SBNS Medal recipient Barrie White

A Spotlight on Aesculap Academy Neurosurgery Events



British Skull Base Society Meeting

Thursday 28th – Friday 29th January 2027

Europa Hotel, Belfast

This multidisciplinary event brings together experts in Otolaryngology, Neurosurgery, Oncology, Maxillofacial Surgery and Nursing, for two days of expert-led presentations, exploration of the latest research and innovations, and valuable networking opportunities.

The British Skull Base Society welcomes free papers in both oral and poster format.

Abstract Topics

- Skull Base Neuro-Oncology
- Vestibular Schwannoma
- Pituitary
- Quality of Life
- Skull Base Malignancy
- Other Lateral Skull Base
- Other Anterior Skull Base

Abstract Submission Deadline:
Sunday 18th October 2026 @ 23:59 BST

Scan or click the QR code for more information



The British Neurovascular Group Meeting

Thursday 4th – Friday 5th February 2027

Blackwell Grange Hotel, Middlesbrough

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

The British Neurovascular Group welcomes free papers in both oral and poster format.

Abstract Topics

- Future direction of neurovascular surgery
- Aneurysms
- AVMs/dAVF
- Cavernoma
- Miscellaneous

Network with industry experts and gain CPD points from The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Abstract Submission Deadline:
Sunday 15th November 2026 @ 23:59 GMT

Scan or click the QR code for more information

Follow us for the latest event updates and announcements

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CONNECT EXCHANGE ENABLE

AESCULAP ACADEMY
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Dates for your diary

SBNS MEETINGS

SBNS100
12th - 16th October 2026
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/sbns-100.html

SBNS Spring Meeting
27th - 30th April 2027
Hosed by Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow
Venue: Glasgow Hilton
Abstract line opening in October 2026
https://www.sbns.org.uk/event-calendar/glasgow-2027

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

EANS2026
30th September – 4th October
Hamburg, Germany
https://eanscongress.org/

WFNS 2027
2027 WFNS World Congress
Bali, Indonesia – dates to be confirmed
https://wfns.org/news/340/2027-wfns-world-congress



NSICON 2026
11-13th December 2026
Ahmedabad, India
https://www.nsicon2026.com/

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 January 2027, content required by November 2026.

Please contact Alix Gordon at the SBNS office admin2@sbns.org.uk if you would like to submit an article.

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Thursday 28th - Friday 29th January 2027

Belfast

The British Neurovascular Group Meeting

Thursday 4th - Friday 5th February 2027

Darlington

An Introduction to Advanced Techniques in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

Tuesday 2nd - Wednesday 3rd March 2027

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