

SBNS Travel Award Report

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In October 2025 I travelled to Lyon, France, for the 51st Meeting of the International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery. This is an annual meeting where clinicians working in paediatric neurosurgery convene over a 5-day period featuring lectures, presentations, pre- and post-conference courses and a rich social programme!

I presented two oral posters based on work carried out by myself at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. The oral poster format is an excellent way of allowing presenters time to talk through their work with expert facilitators and gain valuable, instantaneous feedback directly from other participants to facilitate further discussion.

My first presentation discussed the use of middle meningeal artery (MMA) embolization in children and presented a demonstrative case. This technique is increasingly commonly used in adults but is still rarely employed in children. I was able to discuss this with other clinicians in countries around the world where MMA embolization is more commonplace, as well as others where it is seldom used even in adults. The second presentation discussed a rare brain tumour subtype seen and treated within our unit with a good outcome, and covered the molecular characteristics of this and similar recently-reported tumours.

The conference featured a huge variety of topics from hydrocephalus to oncology, spine to functional neurosurgery and everything in between. There were some fascinating research presentations as well as expert talks from world-leading paediatric neurosurgeons, with highlights such as a multi-centre presentation on the Gemini Untwined project regarding craniopagus twin separation.

Lyon itself was beautiful and the perfect setting for such a conference, and the gala dinner was a great opportunity to network with neurosurgeons from other countries as well as other units in the United Kingdom.

I would like to thank the SBNS once more for the invaluable contribution that the SBNS Conference Travel Award has provided in supporting my attendance and participation at this international conference.