



### A Message from the President.

I am coming to the end of my time as President and I have to say that the last two years have gone very quickly. This is my last newsletter before I hand over to Rick Nelson at the Gala Dinner of the SBNS Meeting in Leeds. Some things have changed a lot in the last two years, not necessarily for the better and some things looked as if they would never change.

Revalidation, which has been two years away for around the last ten years as far as I can see, looks as if it is finally going to happen. In England and Wales, trusts will start allocating dates for revalidation in September 2012 and starting in December, the GMC will issue three month notices to doctors due to be revalidated for the first time. In Scotland and Ireland, doctors who are due for revalidation next year will be picked randomly, based on their GMC registration number. For those doctors selected, the next appraisal will be the revalidation appraisal. Graham Flint has taken over from Phil van Hille as the SBNS lead on revalidation and he will be receiving training so that he can help neurosurgeons with the process. There is information available on the Academy and RCS England websites (<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/revalidation/guidance>) and your Regional Specialty Professional Advisor should know how to access further assistance if necessary.

You may remember that the SBNS linked with the plastic surgeons in the last RCS England Council elections in an attempt to get a surgeon from each specialty elected to the English Council

in the single transferable vote system. Richard Kerr, the SBNS Treasurer, stood and narrowly missed election, possibly because we entered into the arrangements late. We will be having the same arrangement again and Richard will be standing again this year. The arrangement does not prevent any Member or Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England from standing and you can vote for who you like. I would encourage you to put Richard first and the plastic surgical candidate second. Having been a member of the RCS England Council myself, it is good for the views of the small specialty associations to be represented; otherwise the RCS view tends to be that of general surgery! Anyone standing for election to Council of any of the other Colleges is welcome to contact the SBNS office so that their candidacy may be publicised.

NCEPOD recently put out a call for new projects. It is unlikely that another new neurosurgical bid will be successful as the subarachnoid haemorrhage NCEPOD audit is currently in the pipeline. Over the next few months, those of you who have a neurovascular interest will be called upon to complete those comprehensive/painfully detailed (delete as necessary!) forms for patients under your care. Please do fill them in as hopefully the outcome will show what a wonderful service we provide. Those who have attended the SBNS business meetings will know that we are working towards the appointment of an audit/outcome manager to coordinate data collection for neurosurgery. We all believe that we provide an excellent service but most of us cannot demonstrate it and hopefully this appointment will help all SBNS members.

I hope to see you at the Leeds meeting which has been wonderfully organised by Suzanne, Alisha on this occasion and Alix (long distance), together with the local team led by Phil van Hille and our meetings secretary, Peter Kirkpatrick. Kirk is coming to the end of a very successful term as meetings secretary and it would be good if his successor could run in parallel with him for a while. Please contact the office if you would like to do this. If there are many volunteers, we will hold an election. In the same vein, we always need question writers for the exam, so please could volunteers make contact with the office or with Bill Taylor, the new chairman of the exam board.

May I thank all that have helped me over the past two years and made the Presidency easier and considerably more entertaining. Thanks go in particular to Suzanne, Alix, Alisha, Paul Eldridge, Neil Kitchen, Richard Kerr, Phil van Hille and Rick Nelson. I wish Rick and the other officers good luck for the future.



Anne Moore  
President, SBNS

## Welcome to New Members

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting held on 19th April 2012 in Aberdeen during the Spring Meeting.

### Full

Sohail Ansari	London
Chris Barrett	Liverpool
Nick Haden	Plymouth
Neil Simms	Belfast
George Spink	Hull

### Associate

Robin Bhatia	London
Ellie Broughton	Plymouth
Prezerakos Georgios	London
Alison Henderson	Nottingham
Florence Hogg	London
Ahmed-Ramadan Sadek	Southampton
Vashisht Sekar	Leeds
Marcelo Volpon Santos	Birmingham
Julian Woollard	London
Georgios Zilidis	Southampton

### Affiliated

Wei Jie Jensen Ang	Edinburgh
Yasir Chowdhury	London
David Cronin	Cork
Imran Haq	London
Michelle Kameda	Glasgow
Simon Lammy	Aberdeen
Lucia Li	Cambridge
Abhishek Sharma	Aberdeen

### International

Naqib Ullah Achakzai	Pakistan
Syed Ahmed	Bangladesh
Ian McDowell	Bahamas
James Robertson	Tennessee College

## Exam Results

The following candidates passed section two of the Neurosurgical Exam in March 2012.

Mr M Drozda	Mr A R A Ibrahim
Dr J Galea	Mr C Derham
Mr A Tarnaris	Mr N R Furtado
Mr G Narenthiran	Mr A K Demetriades
Dr A N Prasad	Mr R Corns
Mr P P Sayal	Mr A D Bacon
Mr Y Al-Tamimi	Mr H Akram
Mr A Amit	Mr C K Patel
Mr F Aziz	

We wish them all well in their neurosurgical careers.

## New Appointments

The following members were recently elected to serve on the SBNS Council for the next five years commencing July 2012 and will replace outgoing members: Mr A Jenkins and Mr F Nath. Mr Jenkins will continue as an ex-officio member as our UEMS Representative for another year.



William Harkness, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London  
William has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon for 21 years with a specialist interest in Paediatrics and Epilepsy. He is no stranger to council as this will be his second term.



SBNS Representative on the EANS Training Course Amar Saxena – University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire  
Mr Saxena was elected as the new SBNS Representative on the EANS Training Course and will replace Mr Jake Timothy who performed this role since 2007.

Mr Saxena is the ideal person to take over this role, he has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon at University Hospital (UHCW) in Coventry for 11 years, during which time he has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to training.



New Intercollegiate Examination Board Chair  
Mr William Taylor, Consultant Neurosurgeon from Southern General Hospital, Glasgow is to be the new Chair of the IEB. He takes over from Mr Tom Cadoux-Hudson in October 2012.



John Norris, Hurstwood Park Neurological Centre, East Sussex  
John has been a consultant for 14 years in a 'developing' unit that has increased in size from three consultants to ten over that time. For the last five years he has been Principal Lead Clinician experiencing the challenges of delivering a major trauma unit capability along with the planning of a move to a new site.



Regional Specialty Advisor for the Yorkshire Region  
Mr Bruce Mathew from Hull Royal Infirmary will be the new RSPA for the Yorkshire Region. He replaces Mr Paul Marks from Leeds General Infirmary.  
To view the current list of RSPAs please visit: <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/regional/deaneries>



British Neurosurgical Training Association  
Mr Chris Cowie from Newcastle has been elected as the new BNTA Chair and as such is an ex-officio member of the SBNS Council. He replaces Mr Paul Brennan. The post is for a two year term.

Congratulations to all newly elected members.

## Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) – New President

In case you are not aware the RSM Division of Neuroscience has a Neurosurgical President every three years and Mr Michael Powell, Neurosurgeon at the National, will start the role in October 2012. His duties are to organise a programme of lectures and to secure funding and attendees. The programme should interest neurosurgeons. All programmes start at 6.30pm, except the all day programme. Details listed below:

**October 4th:** Presidential lecture. 40 Years of transsphenoidal pituitary surgery, a personal view' Michael Powell's (of course).

**November 1st:** The Chiari I malformation, 120 years on. Speakers are: 1. Prof Ed Oldfield, University of Virginia and past president of the Society of Neurological Surgeons. 'Pathophysiology and management of Chiari I malformations.' 2. Adrian Casey. Chiari syrinx and scoliosis in children' and 3. Claire Rusbridge. 'Acquired Chiari and syrinx in an animal model.'

**December 6th:** Food, wine and the brain with: 1. Prof of experimental psychology, Oxford 'Neurogastronomy' 2. Prof Theodore Landis, Prof of Neurology, University of Geneva, 'The Gourmand Syndrome' and 3. Table debate led by Michael Powell with Paul Levy, former food and wine correspondent, the Observer, Thomasina Miers, Masterchef winner, TV presenter and proprietor of the restaurant chain, Wachaca plus one other wine writer.

Next year's program will include:  
February 1st: Prize winners evening  
March 6th: Physiology and management of pain

**April 4th:** ALL DAY: Current status of brain and spinal cord regeneration

**May 2nd:** New horizons in neuro oncology.

Please attend if you can. For further details please contact their co-ordinator [HYPERLINK "mailto:cns@rsm.ac.uk"](mailto:cns@rsm.ac.uk)

## Undergraduate Bursary Winners

This year's undergraduate bursary winners were: Ben Gaastra, a medical student from Cambridge and Shami Acharya from Barts and the London School of Medicine. They will each receive £500 from the SBNS to help fund their electives.

Ben has been accepted to do a 7 week elective at the National University Hospital, Singapore, under Professor Yeo Tseng Tsai and to undertake research under Professor Wong Meng Cheong who researches brain tumours.

Shami has already completed her elective. She undertook a 7 week clinical research project at The Johns Hopkins Neuro-Oncology Research Laboratory in America under the supervision of Dr Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa where she researched surgical outcomes of metastatic cancer removal.

We wish them success in their future medical careers.

The closing date for the next round is 31st March 2013.

For further details visit the SBNS website – information on bursaries is under the Training and CPD page.

## Peter Stanworth - OBE



Lt Col Peter Stanworth outside Buckingham Palace with his wife, Janet.

It has only just been brought to the attention of the SBNS that Lt Col Peter Stanworth, a neurosurgeon from Coventry, was invested as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2009.

He has been in the Territorial Army for almost 50 years, the last half being spent as Officer Commanding an Army Neurosurgical team which later amalgamated to form a Head and Neck Team. He has been deployed in Kuwait, Iraq, Kosovo, again in Iraq and finally in Afghanistan.

When he first took over the team there was little opportunity for neurosurgical training. The Defence Medical Services require surgeons, who may be deployed single-handedly, to be able to operate on all parts of the body.

The vacuum in neurosurgical teaching needed to be filled. Training was therefore developed to teach burr holes, craniectomies, the elevation of depressed fractures and equally importantly the indication for the procedures, using isolated animal heads. The model proved very successful and was used for teaching field hospital staff, surgeons prior to deployment and latterly NATO surgical reservists.

Before 2006 there was no military presence in Afghanistan. Following an audit it was decided that the British would lead with a team and Peter Stanworth was the first to be deployed.

Military neurosurgery is a specialist branch of neurosurgery that sadly has been neglected until recent times. It is exciting in that it demands versatility in an unfamiliar environment with limited equipment and staff unfamiliar with neurosurgical management of casualties. However the results are as good and sometimes better than in civilian life!

Lt Col Stanworth says that it has been an exciting time and a privilege to follow in the footsteps of Brigadier Sir Hugh Cairns, who laid down the gold standard for the treatment of neurosurgical casualties in the Second World War

A belated congratulation goes to Peter from all at the SBNS.



## New SBNS Website [www.sbns.org.uk](http://www.sbns.org.uk)

The new SBNS website has been up and running since March and we would welcome feedback.

New features include

- An improved navigation structure
- Clear and concise content
- Diary of events
- Membership payments by credit or debit card
- Email newsletters
- A dedicated Research Section and much more...

Your old membership username and password will **not** work on the new site so to activate your account please visit the site and click on **Member Login** at the top right of the Home Page.

Enter the email address you have registered with the SBNS into the reminder email box and the system will send you a unique link to create a

### Login

#### Login to SBNS

Email Address

Password

Remember Me

#### Password Reminder

Enter your email address below and we will email details of how to get a new password.

Email Address

new password. If your email address does not work please contact the SBNS office [admin@sbns.org.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.org.uk) so that we can check that the email address we have registered for you is correct. Once you have logged on please check all your details are correct under the 'My Profile' section so that the information we have about you is up to date.

You can also check if your subscriptions are paid up! I cannot stress enough how important it is that we have your correct contact details, especially your email address.

The majority of the communication between the SBNS and its members is via email and if we don't have your correct details you will not be kept informed.

I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Happy Surfing!

## A Child is Born!

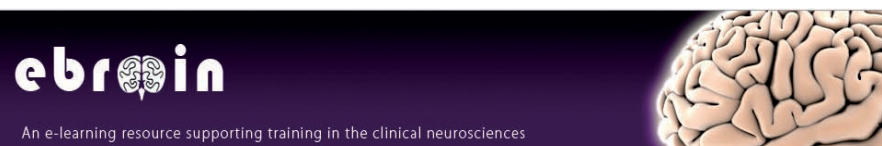


I am pleased to announce that Alix had a beautiful baby girl, Amelie Susan Gordon on January 16th. She plans to enjoy the summer (British Monsoon!) with her new daughter before returning to work in October.

Unfortunately, Alisha Smith, who was covering for Alix has had her visa refused and she has to return to Australia mid August.

We will be hiring a temp to help out with the Leeds meeting until Alix returns.

We will all be sad to say goodbye to Alisha but we wish her well in her new career back in Oz.



An e-learning resource supporting training in the clinical neurosciences

On 22nd May, eBrain hosted its first webinar which was delivered by Professor Dachling Pang, Professor of Paediatric Neurosurgery at Oakland, California. His main interest is in paediatric spinal disorders and embryology and he is widely published on these conditions. His talk was on spinal dysraphism, embryology, surgery of cranio-vertebral junction abnormalities and the treatment of these conditions. The talk was well received in the lecture theatre in Leeds. There were problems with the online audio due to a poor quality microphone - this has now been resolved. Despite the technical problems 18 neurosurgeons logged in to watch the talk and use the online chat.

On the 29th May a more informal online teaching webinar was broadcast and

attended by local trainees and trainees from other units. The intention is to continue with regular Monday evening (5.30pm-6.30pm) teaching sessions and help with hosting these would be welcome. To attend a webinar, log-in ([www.ebrainjnc.com](http://www.ebrainjnc.com)) then follow the webinar link. If you can't remember your password, your login will be your email address (as held by SBNS) and then ask for a password reminder. ebrain is a benefit of SBNS membership.

Other new developments coming through ebrain include a case of the month (volunteers to write these would be welcome) and a question bank. We are also looking for peer reviewers. All offers of help should be directed to Mr Simon Thomson.

**([Simon.Thomson@leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:Simon.Thomson@leedsth.nhs.uk))**

## SBNS and NANSIG Student Day

26th January 2013

Following on from the success of the last two medical student career days the next SBNS & NANSIG Student Careers Day will take place on the 26th January 2013 at the RCS England. Any members who would like to contribute to the programme should contact Mr Richard Nelson or Suzanne at the SBNS office.

Medical students will be invited to submit abstracts and the authors of the three best submissions will have an opportunity to present their work on the day. The overall winner will be invited to present at the SBNS Spring Meeting in Sheffield in May 2013.

**For more details please visit the NANSIG website: <http://www.nansig.com/> and the SBNS website.**

# SBNS Autumn Meeting 26th-28th September



The meeting was last held in Leeds in 1999. The Lead host is Philip van Hille, former President of the SBNS. The conference venue is the Royal Armouries Museum. This is an ideal venue as it has a tiered lecture theatre, large exhibition area and is within walking distance of the conference hotel, the Jury's Inn.

The Life Long Learning Session on the Wednesday morning will have a spinal theme and is being organised by the Society in conjunction with the British Association of Spinal Surgeons (BASS). An excellent opportunity for delegates to update their knowledge on the latest trends in spinal surgery and gain added CPD points!

We are delighted to be able to welcome Prof Robert Spetzler from the USA as one of the guest speakers. He will speak on Wednesday on whether surgery still has a role in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage. Our second International guest speaker is Graham Fieggen, Prof of Neurosurgery in Cape Town. Prof Susan Short, recently appointed professor of Neuro-oncology in Leeds, previously at UCL and chair of NICR, has also been invited to speak and Paul Marks, our host guest speaker will speak on the state of the NHS! There will also be the usual free paper sessions, clinical sessions on Management of Cauda Equina Syndrome & Management of Cavernous Haemangiomas and an extensive trade exhibition.

Our new President, Mr Richard Nelson will be hosting the Thursday Breakfast Seminar on the Future of the SBNS and will be presenting the results of his recent questionnaire to Consultant Neurosurgeons. On Friday the Breakfast seminar will be sponsored by Medtronic on 'European experience of low field MRI in neurosurgery'.

The British Neuro Trauma Group, BNTG will be holding their meeting at the same venue on Tuesday before the Main

Meeting, 12.00 -18:30, for further details please contact Angelos Kolias on [angeloskolias@gmail.com](mailto:angeloskolias@gmail.com)

The Welcome reception on Wednesday evening will be held in the War Gallery giving delegates an opportunity to mingle with colleagues and friends in an informal setting and explore the exhibits as well as viewing a themed demonstration. Food and drinks are included in the registration fee. Dress code, smart casual – armour not necessary!

The Gala Dinner on Thursday evening will be held in Leeds Town Hall. Built in 1858 the building has become famous as an example of Victorian neo-classical architecture that reflects the wealth, power and confidence of the age in which it was created. The building is also the home of the famous Leeds International Piano Competition and houses a magnificent Victorian organ! We hope to have a short performance during pre dinner drinks and a traditional Yorkshire Brass Band welcome us on arrival. Dress code is black tie.

No formal accompanying persons programme is planned, but Leeds City Centre has much to offer with fine shopping, it is known as the Sloane Square of the North so maybe you shouldn't bring your partners! In the elegant Victorian Quarter there are many restaurants and theatres and there is also easy access to the beautiful Yorkshire countryside.

The SBNS Meetings Committee and hosts look forward to welcoming you to the Autumn Meeting in 2012. For further updates please visit the SBNS website [www.sbns.org.uk](http://www.sbns.org.uk) or contact the SBNS office [admin@sbns.org.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.org.uk)

Suzanne Murray  
Senior SBNS Administrator

# Joint Annual Meeting Swiss Society of Neurosurgery & Society of British Neurological Surgeons

7th-8th June 2012



Lugano is a very attractive lake side town in the Italian part of Southern Switzerland, not far from the Italian border and part of the lakes region of Northern Italy. The SBNS officers and over 20 members were able to attend and participate in what turned out to be an extremely interesting and pleasant two days. We all felt that the pace of the meeting was just right. The atmosphere was most relaxed and the scientific content excellent with good consultant level discussions. We were pleased to note a number of associate members of the SBNS also in attendance, particularly representative in the poster sessions. The conference finished with a session on "The future of neurosurgery, research and funding problems and opportunities in individual countries" which provided a stimulating forum to conclude.

Socially we were treated to an excellent dinner by our hosts in a restaurant above one of the main casinos in Lugano, all in all the meeting ran with the informal efficiency one would expect from a Swiss meeting. Thank you to everybody who took the trouble to attend and I think we would all agree that it was well worth the trip.

Congratulations go to Dr Al-Mahfoudh, from Liverpool who won the prize for the best presentation for his talk on "Surgical management of herniated thoracic discs".



# SBNS Spring Meeting

18th-20th April 2012



Electronic Copies of the group photograph can be downloaded from the SBNS Website.

When colleagues of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary first offered to host the SBNS Spring meeting in Aberdeen a few years ago the Meetings Committee were very pleased as the SBNS had never held a meeting in Aberdeen before. However, we were also a little bit apprehensive because of its location. Would delegates and exhibitors travel all that way? Would transport links be a problem? I am pleased to say we could not have been more wrong. We received a record number of abstract submissions and an exceptionally high delegate attendance. The exhibitors also made an effort to transport their stands and support the meeting. The weather did play some tricks on us. In the lead up to the meeting it was 80 degrees and blazing hot sunshine and then a week before the meeting arctic conditions and heavy snow! Again the doubts set in, but in the end the meeting was a great success. It got off to a good start with the Lifelong Learning Session on Neurophysiology in Neurosurgery which was organised by Prof. Tipu Aziz from Oxford with Prof. T Schwartz from New York as the guest speaker. The USA also made an impact in the main meeting with Dr O. Al-Mefty from Boston delivering the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture and Prof. Raymond Sawaya from Texas delivering the Friday breakfast seminar on current and future trends in the Management of Brain Metastasis. Scottish guest speakers also contributed with Prof. Ian Whittle from Edinburgh delivering the Sir Victor Horsley Lecture and Prof. Gillian

Needham delivering the Thursday breakfast seminar on postgraduate medical education and training: Is Neurosurgery well served? This gave everyone something to think about.

The abstract submissions were of a very high standard and due to the large number of submissions and shortage of time, many had to be given poster slots. We therefore introduced an informal poster viewing/exhibition session on Wednesday evening which worked so well (helped of course by some sponsored vino) that we plan to incorporate it into the programme for the Autumn meeting in Leeds.

Presentation prizes were awarded as follows:

## Best Oral Presentation (Sponsored by Codman UK)



## Mr C Cowie from Newcastle for his abstract entitled:

DTI findings in normal appearing grey and white matter correlate with deficits in cognitive function after mild and moderate traumatic brain injury.

## Best Poster prize (Sponsored by Archimedes Pharma)



## Ms H L Sinar from Middlesbrough for her Poster entitled:

An easy and accurate method to determine the size of disc prosthesis required during cervical disc replacement.

## British Journal of Neurosurgery Prize (Sponsored by Informa)



## Mr M A Hughes from Edinburgh for his abstract entitled:

Progress towards merging neuronal network engineering with semiconductor microelectronic technology: tools for neuroscience and neurosurgery.

Congratulations to all winners. They will all be invited to the Gala dinner at the Autumn Meeting in Leeds to collect their prizes and certificates.

The social events were also great fun: The informal Scottish themed Welcome Reception was a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues. Unfortunately the Scottish fare was a bit too wee for some, but the wee drams handed out at the whisky tasting made up for it!

## MRC/NIHR RESCUEicp-Update



The Gala dinner had a bit of a twist to the usual format as we introduced some dancing. It was after all held at the Beach Ballroom so how could we not? During the dinner we were treated to a wonderful display from professional ballroom dancers and later neurosurgeons (some in kilts) doing the salsa!

The star of the show was of course the President, Anne Moore and the President Elect Richard Nelson, head banging to Meatloaf's Bat out of Hell. I know you will all find this hard to believe, but I do have photographic evidence.

The unconfirmed minutes of the business meeting held on the 19th April 2012 are also available for members to download on the Committees page.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this meeting a success: our colleagues at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, especially Manny Labram, the abstract scorers, chairs, session helpers, the AV team at ESW, Julie at Intouch International, the staff at Ardoe House, all our loyal sponsors and of course the delegates for attending.

The RESCUEicp study is an international multi-centre randomised controlled trial comparing the effectiveness of decompressive craniectomy versus advanced medical management for the treatment of refractory intracranial hypertension following traumatic brain injury (TBI). The study is ongoing and aims to recruit 400 patients.

The results of the Australian DECRA trial were published in March 2011. DECRA attempted to answer whether early/neuroprotective decompression can improve outcome following diffuse TBI. Unadjusted clinical outcomes, as assessed by the extended Glasgow Outcome Scale, were worse in the surgical arm than in the medical arm. However, 27% of the patients in surgical arm had bilateral unreactive pupils as compared to 12% in the medical arm ( $p=0.04$ ). Following adjustment for this inequality the negative effects of decompressive craniectomy disappeared; however, there remained a lack of beneficial effect from early/neuroprotective decompressive craniectomy.

Contrary to DECRA, RESCUEicp ([www.rescueicp.com](http://www.rescueicp.com)) attempts to answer whether decompressive craniectomy is effective as a last-tier therapy for refractory raised ICP >25 mmHg (due to diffuse TBI and/or contusions).

The hypothesis and inclusion criteria between the RESCUEicp and DECRA differ significantly; therefore, it is very important that the RESCUEicp meets its recruitment target of 400 patients in order to reach a statistically secure conclusion. We have recruited more than 85% of the required sample size. We now need less than 60 patients to reach the target of 400.

**The funder (EME programme of MRC/NIHR) recently awarded a grant and trial extension until December 2014. In order to have 2 year follow-up data on all enrolled patients, we are hoping to complete the recruitment phase of the trial by early 2013, so please keep looking for eligible patients. We are grateful for your contributions and support to date.**

The RESCUEicp Central Study Team, Peter Hutchinson & Peter Kirkpatrick (Chief Investigators), Ivan Timofeev & Angelos Koliass (Research Fellows), Liz Corteen & Sian Ingham (Research Nurses)

## Sponsored Bike Ride

London to Newcastle, 24 hours Non Stop!

Robert Grisdale, Daniel Jones, Richard Wagstaff and Ben Walker

The SBNS are keen to promote road safety, especially in relation to the prevention of head injury, so when we were approached by Robert Grisdale who was planning on doing a sponsored bike ride to raise money for Road Peace <http://www.roadpeace.org>, the national charity for road crash victims, the Society was only too pleased to support him and become a corporate sponsor. For our contribution of £250 they placed our logo on their website,



their shirts and back up van. The SBNS Treasurer, Mr Richard Kerr also issued this statement on their website: "The Society of British Neurological Surgeons is pleased to support this cycling challenge and wishes the participants every success. Wearing cycle helmets will help protect them against serious

head injury and all other cyclists, during their journey."

This was no ordinary bike ride, they were attempting to ride from London to Newcastle in 24 hours non stop – 300 miles! The riders set off from the London Millennium Bridge at 11:30am on Sunday 24th June and arrived at the Gateshead Millennium Bridge 23 hours and 20 minutes later, saddle sore, but thankfully all in one piece!

The challenge was in memory of brothers Christian and Niggy Townend who were both killed in December 2010 whilst out on one of their regular training rides in the Lake District. They have raised over £7,500 so far. Please visit the London2Newcastle website <http://www.london2newcastle.com> to see their full story and donate and help them reach their target of £10,000 for this brilliant cause. Well done lads!

# Aesculap Academia launches first of its kind conference on care of critically ill neurosurgical patients



Aesculap Academia recently held a major conference to educate junior doctors in the management and care of critically ill neurosurgical patients. B. Braun Medical Ltd's educational arm co-ordinated and hosted the showcase event at its UK headquarters in Sheffield on the 12th and 13th July 2012.

The two-day conference – the first of its kind – was heavily over-subscribed and Course Organiser Mr Ankur Saxena, Specialty Registrar at the Royal Hallamshire and Sheffield Children's Hospitals, said: "The importance of managing critically ill patients in a neurosurgical unit cannot be over emphasised.

"The responsibility of looking after these patients and recognising any change in their clinical state is primarily left in the hands of the junior doctors. This course is aimed at junior neurosurgical trainees who are not only involved in the care of neurosurgical patients, but as their career progresses, will be asked for

advice by more junior foundation trainees or hospital nurse practitioners."

Leading UK neurosurgeons, a consultant microbiologist, resuscitation officers and neuroanesthetists led the sessions. The course included sessions on head injury, subarachnoid haemorrhage, neurosurgical infections and hydrocephalus.

Feedback from the course was excellent with one delegate commenting, "This course has helped my understanding and has prepared me well for junior neurosurgical responsibilities when dealing with critically ill patients."

The popularity of the course will ensure that it becomes a regular part of Aesculap Academia's academic programme and will run again in July 2013.

## Dates for your diary

### Future SBNS Meetings

26th-28th September 2012  
SBNS Autumn Meeting - Leeds

22nd -24th May 2013  
SBNS Spring Meeting – Sheffield  
25th-27th September 2013  
SBNS Autumn Meeting, Romford

13 & 14 September 2012  
Neuroanatomy of Operative Approaches (Part 1) Two day cadaveric dissection course. To find out more visit:  
<http://www.leedsneuroanatomycourses.co.uk/>

5th October 2012  
British Neurovascular Course  
UKNG/BNVG Neurovascular specialists state of the art, education, controversy, Update  
Venue; Paddington Hilton, London  
For more information email:  
[sellarannie@hotmail.com](mailto:sellarannie@hotmail.com)

19th-20th November 2012  
Sagittal Balance with Cadaver Dissection  
The Royal College of Surgeons, London  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

27th-29th November 2012  
Two day Neurosurgical Course The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh  
<http://www.rcsed.ac.uk/education/courses-and-events/coursedetails.aspx?diaryId=1056>

30th January 2013  
Neurofibromatosis Type 2 Meeting  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nottingham  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

31st January-1st February 2013  
British Skull Base Society Meeting  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nottingham  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

7th-8th February 2013  
British Neurovascular Group Meeting  
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

7th-8th March 2013  
British Neurosurgical Research Group Meeting  
Worsley Park, Manchester  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

8th-9th March 2013  
Annual Meeting 2013 – Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

13th -15th March 2013  
BASS 3 day Scientific Meeting 2013, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich  
to find out more visit:  
<http://www.spinesurgeons.ac.uk/>

26th-27th March 2013  
Cervical Spine Course with Cadaver Dissection  
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

11th-14th April 2013  
World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy) Location: Istanbul, Turkey to find out more visit  
<http://www.comtecmed.com/cony/2013/>  
Please visit the Dates for your diary section of the SBNS website for more dates.

July 2013 (date to be confirmed)  
Care of the Critically Ill Neurosurgical Patient, Sheffield  
Contact: [academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com),  
website: [www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia@bbraun.co.uk)  
or 0114 225 9036

## Neurosurgery Courses

The Royal College of Surgeons runs a number of Neurosurgical courses at the college. For further details please visit [www.rcseng.ac.uk](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk)

The Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS Colleagues and contributions are welcome for the next issue – please contact:

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