



# Society of British Neurological Surgeons

## A Message from the President



Paul May, SBNS President

The last few months have proved difficult times for some of our neurosurgical, medical and nursing colleagues in Manchester and London. We are acutely aware of the threat that terrorism poses to our way of life and I would like to mention in particular our colleagues who were involved in the care of the victims in those two great cities. I received messages of support from the executive of the AANS in particular and I passed them on.

In May the SBNS was invited to consecutive Friendship meetings. The first at the invitation of the German Society, the DGNC in Magdeburg, closely followed by a meeting with the Spanish Society in Barcelona along with the CNS. The meeting in Magdeburg was well supported by the SBNS with many plenary and platform presentations from both trainees and consultants. At both meetings, I was surprised at the concern and perception of Brexit by our Spanish and German colleagues.

I reassured them both that the SBNS would continue to strive for shared research, clinical endeavour and friendship in spite of the Brexit process. My impression was that the media coverage they received on the continent of Europe gave the perception that all of us in the UK were desperate to cancel all our ties with European colleagues, which is clearly not the case.

At the gala dinner in Magdeburg, the German Society honoured the Jewish neurosurgeons that had been killed, or interned and sent to concentration camps or forced to leave Germany in the 1930s by the Nazis. This proved to be a very poignant and emotional recognition and was the first time that the German Society had recognised this important and significant group.



Paul May, Prof Walter Stummer and Prof Raimund Firsching President



Prof Raimund Firsching, Congress

The Spanish meeting was also well supported. Notably there was a symposium dedicated to Sir Victor Horsley, which was chaired by Robert Maurice-Williams and delivered by Michael Powell and Jonathan Pollock who gave insight to his character and highlighted what a great pioneer he was in the world of neurosurgery.

We came away from those meetings with strongly enhanced bonds of friendship and collaboration with our European colleagues and we look forward to our next joint venture with the Greek Neurosurgical Society towards the end of May 2018 on the island of Crete.



Michael Powell presenting in Barcelona

On a personal note, I would like to thank Richard Kerr, who preceded me as president of the Society for his support and counsel during the first year of my presidency. I also would like to welcome and congratulate Neil Kitchen who will commence his appointment as President-Elect in September and I look forward to working with him on the many challenges that face us; workforce issues

around thrombectomy embolectomy, subarachnoid haemorrhage treatment (adults and paediatric) as well as many other challenges including the indemnity of our colleagues practising spine surgery.

I am very pleased to welcome our new council members, Paul Grundy and Stephen Cook. It is particularly important that our colleagues in the devolved countries are represented and I know Stephen will be a great asset to the SBNS as he is to his Belfast unit.

In May this year, the SBNS Council visited Belfast and attended a Forum presented by our colleagues in the Belfast unit which was very informative. It is the intention of council to attempt to hold at least one of our council meetings each year outside London and to meet up with our members in the various regions in the UK and has an open dialogue. Feedback from these visits have always been very positive.



Prof Miguel Arraez and President SENEC



Suzanne and Alix Promoting the SBNS at the Spanish Meeting

I am looking forward to hosting the SBNS Autumn Meeting in my home town of Liverpool with invited guests the Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies (CAANS). The programme should hopefully reflect the challenges of delivering a neurosurgical service on the continent of Africa and the challenges that they throw up. I am also looking forward to future SBNS meetings in 2018 hosted by the Plymouth unit and the Queen Square unit (joint with the ABN) when Neil will take over the presidency in autumn of 2018.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe, peaceful and happy summer break with their families and friends.

Warmest regards,

Paul May

# Welcome to New Members

The following members were ratified at the SBNS Business Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Oxford during the SBNS Spring Meeting.

## Full

Paul Brennan	Edinburgh
Husam Georges	Haywards Heath
Nick Haden	Plymouth
Stuart Harrison	Stoke
Rossana Romani	London
James Barber	London
UmangJash Patel	Oxford

## Associate

Christopher Akhunbay-Fudge	Leeds
Yaw Antwi-Yeboah	London
Anam Anzak	London
David Bennett	Glasgow
Karol Budohoski	Cambridge
Ioannis Christodoulides	London
Matthew Crank	Sheffield
Andrew Dapaah	Nottingham
Gareth Dobson	Newcastle
Simon Dockrell	Manchester
Lianne Harrison	Sheffield
Bethan John	Liverpool
Jacob Low	London
Abteen Mostofi	North Western Deanery
Dhruv Parikh	Coventry
Saba Raza-Knight	Manchester
James Robins	Leeds
Holly Roy	Oxford
Nagina Subrati	London
Joseph Wood	Oxford
Nektarios Mazarakis	Nottingham

## Affiliated

Joanna Ashby	Glasgow
Christine Mitoko	Wales
Clare Rusbridge	Surrey
Eddy Suarez	London
Rosa Sun	Worcester
Ciara Walker	Manchester
Debayan Dasgupta	Southampton
Duncan Henderson	Sheffield
Bilal Mamatkhanov	Ukraine
Chris Mckinnon	Oxford
Surath Munasinghe Arachchige	Sri Lanka
Vaios Paragioutsikos	Stoke
Patrick Tully	Oxford

## International

Alessandro Bertuccio	Italy
Adrian Danu	Moldova
Abdelhameid Mohamed	Saudi Arabia
Ayodeji Salman Yusuf	Nigeria

## Senior

David Allcutt	Dublin
Owen Sparrow	Southampton
Ahmed Halaka	Egypt
Peter Richards	Oxford

## New Appointments

### President Elect



**Mr Neil Kitchen – National Hospital for Neurosurgery and Neurology, London**  
I am absolutely delighted and honoured to be taking up the position of President Elect of the SBNS from September this year. I wish to continue the vital work of the SBNS in supporting individual members and representing their interests at a national level...I look forward to working with the SBNS team again!

### New Council Members



**Stephen Cooke – Belfast**

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected to Council and hope to serve the Society well during the period of tenure. I trained in Neurosurgery in Manchester and Belfast before my appointment as a consultant in 1996 in Belfast. I have sub-specialty interests in cervical spine and skull base surgery, including pituitary work. I was Clinical Director for Neurosciences for seven years and since then have maintained an interest in modernisation and quality improvement in our service. I am also closely involved with training as Educational and Clinical Supervisor for neurosurgical trainees and the Foundation Programme.



**Paul Grundy - Southampton**

I have been a consultant Neurosurgeon at Wessex Neurological Centre, Southampton, since 2005 after training in Bristol and Melbourne. My clinical practice is now entirely neuro-oncology surgery, but my job is now split with significant local and national leadership roles. In Southampton, I lead Neurosciences, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Cardiovascular and Thoracics and Radiology for NHS England, I am also the Secretary of BNOS. I am a strong advocate of subspecialist care and fellowship training and clinically have a high-volume oncology and awake surgery programme with innovative pathways including day-case and short-stay surgery. I am looking forward to joining the SBNS Council in July and hope to make a valuable contribution.

## New National Neurosurgical Audit Programme (NNAP) Chair



**Mr Nick Phillips – Leeds**

I am pleased to be taking over as NNAP lead. Richard Nelson is going to be a very hard act to follow. Although, in some respects, this will be easy because of the very solid foundation he has built.

We are very much in the age of hard data in the NHS and it is good that we are early adopters with NNAP. It has proven its value over the last few years in providing very robust responses to numerous challenges and questions regarding our service from wide variety of sources. iNeurosurgery has been recognised as a hugely valuable resource at the highest levels of the Health Service and I would encourage you to make as much use of it as possible. We need feedback and engagement for it to evolve and grow. You will know how it supports appraisal and revalidation and I think things seem much more joined up. There is a real drive to reduce the reporting burden for trusts and clinicians from NHS England and I am hopeful it will be replaced by systems like NNAP.

I am aware of the very confusing number of health agencies involved in monitoring. HQIP (Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership) publishes national audits on its Consultant Outcomes Publication website. The 2017 COP report will be published in July. Paediatric reports are in preparation and will be distributed soon.

I am also GIRFT (Getting It Right First Time) lead for cranial neurosurgery and I think the two roles are mutually helpful with their focus on quality, something we all wish to improve and assure. I have visited all 24 neurosurgical units in England and it has been very enjoyable to meet you all – thank you for being so interested in the project. I am keen to support a very clinically oriented focus on quality that will highlight excellence and support neurosurgeons to do the best they can for their patients. I am currently writing the national GIRFT report, which will give a thorough overview of our national neurosurgical service for cranial conditions. It is NHS England and NHS Improvement's intention that the recommendations of the national report are implemented. We can expect the pace of change in the NHS to increase.

## Genomics England

Genomics England's 100,000 Genome Project recently adapted adult primary brain tumours into its programme. This is a great opportunity to do whole genome sequencing for up to 1,000 patients nationwide.

All grades and types of gliomas are included as well as rarer intrinsic tumours such as embryonal tumours, pineal tumours, germ cell tumours and neuronal tumours. Participation and recruitment require collaboration between the neuro-oncology multidisciplinary team and its local Genomic Medical Centre.

There are now 13 Genomic Medical Centres across England to cover this. The majority of the teaching

hospitals will already have a dedicated 100,000 Genome Project team which will be the first point of contact to set up the local processes (including consent, tissue and data collection) as well as the link with the Genomic Medical Centres.

This is a unique opportunity to obtain large and comprehensive genomic and clinical data with the aim of translation into better patient care. I do hope that together we can take advantage of this.

Further information please contact Prof Keyoumars Ashkan (k.ashkan@nhs.net)

Genomics England Clinical Interpretation Partnership Board Lead (Brain)

## NEW SBNS OFFICE - RCSENG 2020 PROJECT



Due to the refurbishment of the RCSEng Barry Building, the SBNS office has now relocated to the Nuffield Building, Room 210 (it used to be a bedroom suite) for the next three years. Sadly, they have removed the bed so no afternoon naps for us! We hope to return to RCS in 2020 when the building work has been completed. Our email address and telephone numbers remain the same and all mail will be redirected.



We were sad to leave the Barry building, the SBNS office has been based in the RCS for the past 17 years, when I, (Suzanne), first started working for the SBNS in 2000. On the plus side, we both have a lovely view of Lincoln's Inn Fields! If you are ever in the vicinity, please pop up and pay us a visit.

## SBNS Research Day Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017



The first SBNS Research Day was held at the RCSEng on the 10<sup>th</sup> February and was a great success. If you were unable to attend, you can view the speaker slides on the Research page of the SBNS Website.

<http://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/research/sbns-research-day/>

The event is to be repeated every two years with different themes.

Carole Turner – SBNS Research Manager  
Peter Hutchinson – SBNS Academic Chair  
The Faculty – Research Day

## Congratulations



Rory Piper

Mr William Taylor, Chair of the National Selection Board is pleased to announce that Rory Piper was awarded the Jr Barrow Foundation UK Travel Fellowship award for achieving the highest score at this year's National Selection. This was no mean feat considering the high standard of the candidates. The award consists of visit to the Barrow institute for up to two weeks with an opportunity to attend a Barrow Neurological Symposium. He also received up to £3,000 to cover his expenses.

"I am delighted to receive this award and am most grateful to both the Barrow Foundation UK and the SBNS. I look forward to beginning my training as an Academic Clinical Fellow and Neurosurgery ST1 in Oxford."

## SBNS/DGMC Meeting May 2017 – Magdeburg, Germany

As mentioned by Paul May in his Presidential address, the SBNS was invited to participate in the DGMC meeting in Magdeburg, Germany. It was a very successful meeting and SBNS members were invited to submit abstracts for presentation. Ten of the highest scoring submissions were awarded bursaries of 600 Euros each to help with travel and expenses.

### Winners

Ali Ahmed  
Amjad Ali  
Ahmed Aly  
Aimun Jamjoom  
Ammar Natalwala  
Daniel M. Fountain  
Holly Roy  
Harry Bulstrode  
Lalin Navaratne  
Ruichong Ma

# Friendship Meeting

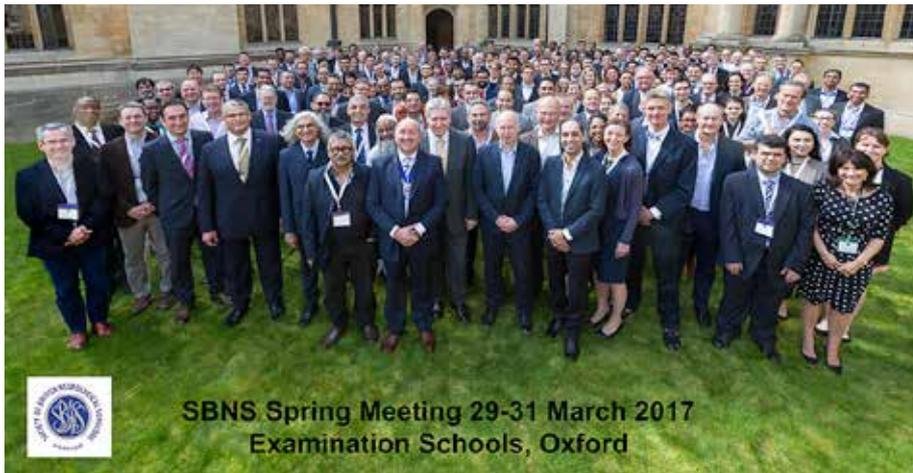
Next year the SBNS has been invited to participate in a friendship meeting with the Hellenic Neurosurgical Society Meeting in Crete, 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018. More details will be posted on the conference page of the SBNS so save the date!

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ  
ΝΕΥΡΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ  
ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ



HELLENIC  
NEUROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

# SBNS Spring Meeting in Oxford



The SBNS Spring meeting, which was held at the Examination Schools in Oxford, was a rousing success both academically and socially. On Monday, prior to the start of the meeting the Oxford team, led by Puneet Plaha ran a White Fibre dissection course at the Anatomy School. On the Tuesday the British Radiosurgery Society, led by Matt Radatz held a half day meeting of its members, which was well attended.

The SBNS meeting is always preceded by a Life-Long Learning session, this year sponsored by the EANS, and on Wednesday morning the meeting opened with this session on the topic of Low Grade Glioma delivered by Prof Duffau from Montpellier. He later gave the Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture on Neuroplasticity and brain connectomics.

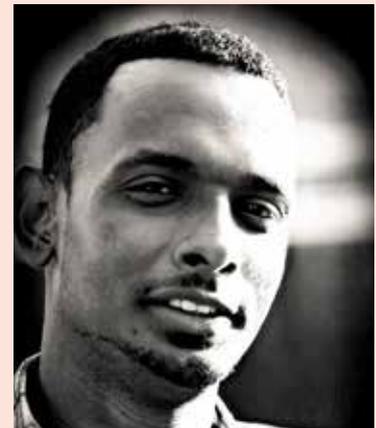
The main part of the meeting, held in the examination halls in central Oxford, started with the Sir Victor Horsley lecture from Prof. Tipu Aziz, always an enthusiastic presenter. Such was the popularity of the meeting that parallel sessions had to be held with over 300 delegates. Prof Chris Bulstrode delivered the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson lecture on humanitarian medicine, showing some heart breaking images from the disaster and war torn parts of the world.

With a special lecture from the recently retired Prof Gordon Murray and the delivery of a Royal College of Surgeons Hunterian Lecture, the meeting celebrated with a Gala dinner held at Balliol College where the young Hugh Cairns registered as a Rhodes Scholar when he first came to Oxford.

The academic content was of a very high standard and the following prizes were awarded:



**Best Poster Presentation**  
Ruichong Ma, from Oxford University NHS Trust, for his abstract:  
Complications following Intracranial Pressure Monitoring in Children: a 10-year single centre experience



**Best Oral Presentation**  
Mr Mutwakil Abdulla from The BRAIN Unit, Cardiff University, for his abstract:  
Cellular inflammatory response to penetrating trauma caused by transplantation surgery in the brain



Mr Adel Helmy from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge was awarded the Hunterian Professorship from the RCS Eng and delivered the Hunterian Lecture on Neuroinflammation in Traumatic Brain Injury  
Congratulations to all presenters.

The SBNS would like to thank everyone who contributed to the meeting, our hosts, the presenters and all our sponsors.



If you were unable to attend the meeting or would like to see the talks, again you can do so via Talking Slides: ESW, our AV Company, have recorded and uploaded all the oral presentations for viewing to their website: <http://sbns.talkingslideshd.com>.

You will be required to register and create a password to gain access. Please use the registration code: th76t5. Once logged in you can view all the talks presented at the meeting.

# Photo Gallery

If you wish to have a copy of any of the images please contact John Murray at [john@pnjphotography.com](mailto:john@pnjphotography.com)



We also had a chance to have some fun in Oxford - the Welcome Reception was held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the Gala dinner at Balliol College where we were treated to some fantastic entertainment and finished off with a boogie!



You can view the photos taken at the meeting - Keynote lectures, Welcome Reception, Gala Dinner, the group photo and Exhibition by clicking on this link: <http://jalbum.net/a/1793638>



Our colleagues in the Walton Centre are looking forward to welcoming you and our colleagues from the Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies (CAANS), to the Titanic Hotel in Liverpool for this year's Autumn Meeting in September.

We have received a large number of very high quality abstracts, from the SBNS and CAANS and to ensure that the majority of delegates get an opportunity to hear them we have reduced the number of parallel sessions. In order to do this and fit in as many talks as possible over the 3 days, we have decided to reduce the presentation time to 8, 6 and 4 minutes and have grouped the talks by subject. The poster numbers have also been reduced to allow for more oral presentations.

As well as the usual three eponymous lectures, we are also honoured to have as our guest Prof. Peter Anderson who will be flying over from Australia to deliver the RCS Arnott Lecture.

- **Victor Horsley Lecture:** James T. Goodrich, MD, PhD, DSci (Hon), Director & Professor, Children's Hospital at Montefiore Albert Einstein College of Medicine, (New York, USA)
- **Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture:** Tom Solomon, Professor & Director, Infection & Global Health (Liverpool)
- **The Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture:** Graham Fieggen, Chair of the Congress of African Associations of Neurosurgeons (Cape Town SA)
- **RCS Arnott Lecture:** Peter Anderson, Professor at the Australian Craniofacial Unit, Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide - His lecture is entitled, 'Cranial Sutures - just joints of bones?'

The British Neurovascular Group will be joining the meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> for their half day meeting – everyone is welcome to attend, and the Life Long Learning Session will be on CNS Infection with speakers from the UK, Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa.

The host unit is also running a two day cadaveric neurosurgical training course at the Human Anatomy Resource Centre in Liverpool which has been supported by Stryker, B. Braun Medical Ltd, Delta Surgical and Zeiss.

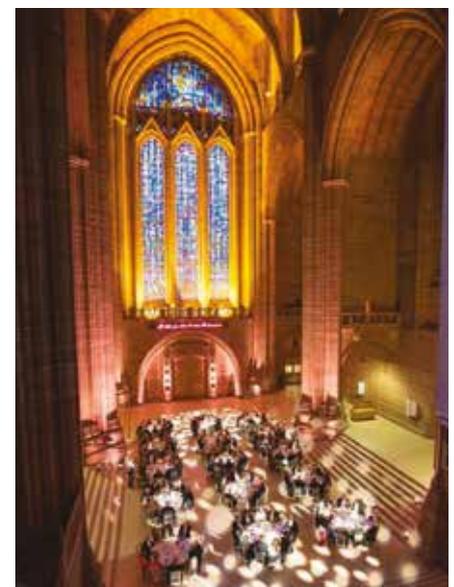
So, as you can see, we have a great academic programme planned, but like everyone who has ever been to an SBNS Meeting will know, it is not all work and no play. We also have some great social events planned: The Welcome Reception on Wednesday will be at the Beatles Story Museum - well you cannot come to Liverpool and not encounter the city's most famous export. The event will also be an excellent opportunity to view the exhibits, eat, drink, network and be merry while you travel back in time to the swinging 60's.



On Thursday, we have a more formal black tie event at one of Liverpool's famous landmarks, the Anglican Cathedral, which is a spectacular venue that should not be missed. So please register early to avoid disappointment.

To find out more about the meeting and to register please visit the Liverpool Conference page

The conference app will be available for downloading Mid-August.



## Dates For your diary

### **SBNS Autumn Meeting**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017  
Liverpool

### **EANS Meeting,**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Venice

### **BSBS Meeting**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
Liverpool

### **BNVG Meeting**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
London

### **BNRG Meeting**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Sheffield

### **SBNS Spring Meeting**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Torquay

### **Joint SBNS and Hellenic Neurosurgical Society Meeting**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Crete

### **SBNS Autumn Meeting - Joint with ABN**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018  
London

### **Joint Meeting with SBNS/EANN/ BANN**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019  
Manchester

### **EANS/SBNS Meeting**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Dublin

Please visit the Dates for your Diary Section of the SBNS Website for full details of forthcoming meetings and courses  
<http://www.sbns.org.uk/index.php/conferences/diary/>

The SBNS Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS colleagues. Contributions are welcome for the next issue due out in January 2018, content will be required by the end of October 2017. Please contact Suzanne Murray at the SBNS office [admin@sbns.org.uk](mailto:admin@sbns.org.uk)



- The first long term telemetric pressure sensor for the treatment of hydrocephalus
- Decision-making support with quick and easy evaluation of clinical symptoms
- Determination of optimal valve pressure setting
- Localisation of shunt blockages: Proximal and distal



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TELEMETRIC SHUNT CONTROL – READING INNER VALUES