

20th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology

By Nicholas Butowski, MD

Are you ready for the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology to be held November 19-22, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas?

See the SNO website for further information www.soc-neuro-onc.org. Note, that on Wednesday, November 18, there will be pre-conference sessions, including a Neuro-Oncology Review Course and SNO-Society for CNS Interstitial Delivery of Therapeutics Joint Conference on Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS (the latter of which also continues on the 19th).

This year's Education Day, held on Thursday November 19, is entitled Cancer Immunotherapy and Immunology; it includes a morning joint session followed by concurrent sessions focused on immunotherapy in addition to psychoneuroimmunology and other factors which affect patient outcomes. That evening, the meeting commences with the SNO Welcome Reception.

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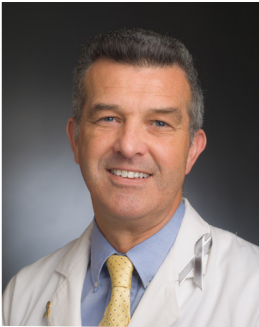
The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel situated directly on the San Antonio Riverwalk.

The Scientific Meeting begins Friday, November 20. Credit to scientific meeting chairs, Drs. Tracy Batchelor and Gelareh Zadeh for composing a comprehensive program built on a varied format of top-scoring abstracts, plenary talks, mini-symposia, sunrise sessions, and traditional/oral/e-posters. Friday begins with sunrise sessions, followed by the start of the first general session. The Sunrise Sessions will be on the following topics:

- Session 1: Quality of Life
- Session 2: Tumor Microenvironment
- Session 3: Biology of Brain Mets
- Session 4: EANO/SNO Joint Session on Guidelines
- Session 5: Peds Neuro-Oncology
- Session 6: Basic Biology of Neurofibromatosis

After the sunrise sessions, the first plenary session will begin with an official meeting welcome by Drs. Batchelor and Zadeh followed a mini-symposium on precision medicine with keynote speeches by Drs. Donald Berry and Mark Gilbert. This is followed by top scoring abstracts and awards. Lunch will include the option of attending tutorials or educational sessions on a number of topics. Afternoon concurrent sessions include 1) Clinical Trials, 2) Tumor Biology, 3) Brain Mets, and 4) Radiobiology. Friday evening will allow for oral poster presentations and traditional poster viewing.

From the President



David Reardon, MD

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

The past year has been a busy and productive one. In addition to major efforts related to our two journals and the SNO Annual Meeting outlined below, I am also very pleased to update you on several other active SNO efforts that have gained significant momentum during the past year.

I am delighted to report that our journals continue to flourish. *Neuro-Oncology Practice* is now solidly established under the leadership of its Editor-in-Chief, Susan Chang, and has now been accepted into PubMed Central. *Neuro-Oncology* has continued to excel as the premier journal dedicated to our field under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief, Patrick Wen and has recently been awarded an all-time high impact factor of 6.776.

This year's Annual Meeting promises to be our best yet. Under the leadership of Scientific Co-Chairs, Tracy Batchelor and Gelareh Zadeh, a very exciting and active program has been developed. Education Day focuses on Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy and includes a stellar listing of speakers put together by the co-chairs Gavin Dunn, Michael Lim, Hideho Okada, Michael Scheurer and Jeffrey Wefel. In addition, just prior to the 2015 Annual Meeting, there will be two pre-conferences. Michael Vogelbaum will lead a joint conference on drug delivery with the Society for CNS Interstitial Delivery of Therapeutics, while Maciej Mrugala will extend his neuro-oncology review course to a full day program.

Critical priorities during my term as President have been to increase young investigators participation in SNO and to extend SNO's global presence. In terms of attracting young investigators to SNO, we have initiated a program that offers free subscriptions to *Neuro-Oncology* and *Neuro-Oncology Practice* for four months to residents and fellows in training. This effort, spearheaded by Manmeet Ahluwalia, with support from Linda Greer and Megan Bell in the SNO office, involved sending a cover letter summarizing SNO, its mission as well as the free journal access initiative to all accredited neuro-oncology fellowship programs as well as residency programs for neurology, medical oncology and neurosurgery in the United States. In just a few months, many young investigators have signed up for this benefit.

On the international front, SNO, with leadership provided by Gelareh Zadeh, Chair of the Outreach Committee, has partnered with the University of Toronto and the SNO Foundation to initiate an annual outreach neuro-oncology education course. Our goal is to conduct the first such course in 2016.

Another ongoing major area of effort has been to further advance SNO's utilization of technology to enhance communication and collaboration for our community. The updated SNO homepage website is up and running well. We have expanded our social media presence including an active Twitter account. Next steps include updating our abstract submission program for the annual meeting and incorporation of the SNO Community component of the website which will help organize and facilitate electronic discussion between members. Deep thanks to Erik Sulman, Chair of the SNO Website Committee and our Executive Director, Chas Haynes, for their critical leadership of these efforts.

In the past year, we voted to add two new committees to the Board of Directors including the SNO Guidelines committee, chaired by Tracy Batchelor, and the Policy Committee, chaired by Jann Sarkaria. Both of these committees are envisioned to have key roles as the field of neuro-oncology continues to globally expand.

Another important effort has been development of a program to honor the 20th anniversary of SNO. This effort, led by Vinay Puduvalli and Chas Haynes has resulted in the production of a short video which will be aired at the 20th annual meeting and then posted on the SNO website as well as a brochure highlighting the growth and accomplishments of the Society since its inception 20 years ago.

Finally, this year was an election year and I wish to personally congratulate Antonio (Nino) Chiocca, Terri Armstrong and Gelareh Zadeh as the incoming SNO President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. The future of the Society is indeed in outstanding hands.

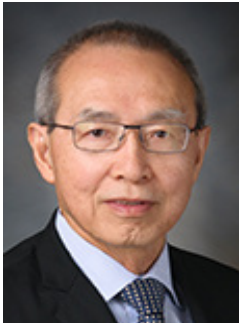
As I wind down my term, I wish to acknowledge that serving as President of SNO represents a personal highlight of my career. Thanks to all of your efforts, those of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors and very importantly, the SNO administrative office led by Chas Haynes, SNO continues to lead the advancement of our field worldwide.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David A. Reardon, MD

W. K. Alfred Yung to Receive SNO Lifetime Achievement Award

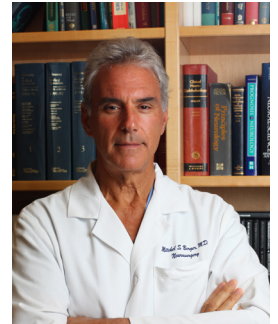


W. K. Alfred Yung

The Society for Neuro-Oncology is pleased to announce Dr. W. K. Alfred Yung has been honored with SNO's Lifetime Achievement Award. Until recently, Dr. Yung served as the Chair of Neuro-Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

The SNO Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions in neuro-oncology over his or her career, either in clinical care and/or translational or basic research. The award also recognizes an individual who has trained, influenced or motivated many of the current clinicians and investigators in neuro-oncology. Dr. Yung will be honored during the Presidential Address at the 20th Annual SNO Meeting on Saturday, November 21, in San Antonio, Texas.

SNO Honors Mitchel Berger with 2015 Victor Levin Award and Lecture



Mitchel Berger

Named after the Society's Founder, the Victor Levin Award recognizes a career commitment to neuro-oncology displaying leadership and innovation leading to extraordinary achievements in the field.

This year, this prestigious award will be given to Dr. Mitchel Berger, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery and Director, Neurosurgical Research Centers, Brain Tumor Research Center at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center.

Dr. Berger will deliver a plenary lecture entitled Team Neuro-Oncology: The Sum is More Important than its Parts at the 20th Annual SNO Meeting on Saturday, November 21 at 11:00am.



Jan Esenwein

Jan Esenwein Receives SNO Public Service Award

The leadership of the Society is pleased to announce that SNO's long-time matriarch, Jan Esenwein, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 SNO Public Service Award. This award recognizes Ms. Esenwein's many years of service to the Society and the field of neuro-oncology as a whole. Ms. Esenwein will be honored during the Presidential Address at the 20th Annual SNO Meeting on Saturday, November 21, in San Antonio, Texas.

New Career Lounge at SNO Meeting

In a new initiative led by Gelareh Zadeh, a designated area of the hotel meeting space will be reserved for job seekers and employers to connect with one another. The "SNO Career Lounge" is intended to facilitate a convenient environment where you can meet prospective candidates for employment or learn of career opportunities currently available in the field of neuro-oncology.

Employers are encouraged to post listings of available positions on the Job Board located outside the Career Lounge area. Personal interviews can then be arranged in a designated area of the Career Lounge.

The Career Lounge will be located on the 2nd floor of the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, (Sazo's Restaurant) and will be open on Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21, 2015, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, during the SNO meeting.

Scheduling of the interviews must be arranged on-site by contacting the Career Lounge Coordinator, Sheela Purandhara. You will need to provide your name, contact information and preferred availability so that we can facilitate an appointment for you. For any questions please contact Gelareh Zadeh, or Sheela Purandhara at: SNOcareerlounge@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 21st Sunrise Sessions feature the following topics:

- Session 1: Vaccine Therapy
- Session 2: Low Grade Glioma
- Session 3: Glioma Stem Cells
- Session 4: Lymphoma
- Session 5: Molecular Epidemiology
- Session 6: Meningioma Consortium

Afterward we head into the morning plenary session with a mini-symposium on immunotherapy and trials with respective a Keynote Presentations on CAR T by Carl June. This is followed by the Victor Levin Award presentation by the esteemed Dr. Mitchel Berger, the SNO Presidential Address, and lastly presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. W. K. Alfred Yung and the Public Service Award to Jan Esenwein. Lunch offers further tutorial and educational sessions on an assortment of topics.

Afternoon concurrent sessions follow on 1) Tumor Biology, 2) RANO Update, 3) Pediatrics, 4) Neuroimaging, and 5) Surgical Therapeutics and Drug Delivery. A poster session will take place afterward and conclude the day. That evening, the SNO Gala Dinner promises to be the social highlight of the meeting (Pre-purchased ticket required).

Sunday Sunrise Sessions include:

- Session 1: Molecular Pathology
- Session 2: Circulating Biomarkers
- Session 3: Surgical Delivery of Therapeutics WFNS
Joint Session with SNO
- Session 4: Cell signaling
- Session 5: Neuroimaging
- Session 6: ASNO: Deciphering the Genome of CNS
Germ Cell Tumors

The sunrise sessions are followed by concurrent meetings on 1) Molecular Pathology, 2) QOL and Neurocognition, and 3) Tumor Biology. Closing out the meeting, a special “Best of SNO” session will highlight and summarize the key research presented at the conference.

Remember: Texas is a State of Mind and in Texas, everything (including the SNO meeting) is BIGGER.

SNO Pre-Conference Sessions

The SNO is pleased to present two special pre-conference sessions for those attending the annual SNO meeting in San Antonio, Texas, next month. Details on each of these pre-conference events is provided below.

Neuro-Oncology Review Course

(Endorsed by the American Academy of Neurology)
Wednesday, November 18, 8:00am - 5:30pm

Building on the success of the 2014 program, the 2015 Neuro-Oncology Review Course has been expanded to a full day. The course has been designed as a fast paced, high quality educational session with CME credits provided to all participants. The faculty of the course, selected from top neuro-oncology programs, will offer a comprehensive overview of clinical neuro-oncology. In addition to the course syllabus, participants will receive a set of multiple-choice questions that allow for consolidation of the acquired material and help them prepare for the specialty boards.

SNO-SCIDOT Joint Conference on Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS

Wednesday, November 18 – Thursday, 19, 2015,
8:00am - 5:00pm

The 2015 SNO-SCIDOT Joint Conference on Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS will address the multiple laboratory and clinical advances that have been made in the field of interstitial delivery of therapeutics. Sessions will cover a wide range of topics including the physiology of the blood-brain-barrier (BBB), methods for overcoming the BBB, development of novel technologies and techniques for surgical treatment of brain tumors, novel devices for delivering drugs directly into the brain, drug carriers, modeling of drug delivery, non-oncologic applications of direct delivery of therapeutics to the CNS, and updates on ongoing and completed clinical trials.

The two-day scientific program will include invited presentations from a wide range of investigators and thought-leaders in the various fields that comprise direct delivery of therapeutics to the brain, as well as oral and poster presentations of original scientific work.

For more information or to register for either of these important pre-conference sessions, visit the SNO website: www.soc-neuro-onc.org

Networking and Career Development Sessions at SNO

SNO is pleased to offer two special career development events at this year's meeting focused on promoting and facilitating mentorship and collaboration for those seeking to advance their careers in the field of neuro-oncology.

Networking and Career Development Reception

Thursday, November 19, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

This innovative and exciting event returns for a fourth year. Attendees will take part in an organized networking and mentoring session where each participant will have the opportunity to interact with many potential collaborators and mentors for brief, high-value exchanges that will form the basis of mutually beneficial professional relationships. The formal session will then transition to the SNO Welcome Reception to allow for more extensive follow-up conversations and socializing. There is no charge for this event; however, you must specifically register confirm your attendance. The registration deadline is November 6th. Visit: www.soc-neuro-onc.org.

Young Investigators Luncheon

Practical Information on Starting your Lab
Saturday, November 21, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

This special lunch session will feature three panelists from a breadth of backgrounds (PhD, MD, and MD/PhD) who bring together considerable experience in starting and running a neuro-oncology lab. The session will include a Q & A segment to expand on themes of particular interest. Pre-registration is not required - pick up lunch in the foyer and make your way to the session. *Panel Discussants: Justin Lathia, Viviane Tabar, Albert Lai* *Session Chair: Manish Aghi*

While these events have been initiated by the SNO Young Investigators Committee, attendees at all career levels are invited to participate.

For more information or to register for the networking reception, visit the SNO website: www.soc-neuro-onc.org.

Neuro-Oncology Announces New Impact Factor Ranking of 6.776

The editorial office of SNO's flagship journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, is pleased to announce that the 2015 Journal Citation Reports® (Thomson Reuters, 2015) has assigned *Neuro-Oncology* an Impact Factor of 6.776 in its most recent ranking.

This solidifies the journal's reputation as the leading journal in its field, rating *Neuro-Oncology* ahead of its direct peer neuro-oncology journals, establishing it as 15th among all ranked clinical neurology journals and 22nd among other oncology journals.

Treasurer's Report

It is with great pleasure I report that the Society for Neuro-Oncology's overall financial status has never been better.

Total revenue in our 2015 fiscal year was over \$2.8 million, representing an increase of \$350,000 over fiscal year 2014. After factoring in expenses, the Society's change in net assets was \$393,000. SNO's main source of revenue remains our annual meeting, including registration fees and financial support from Platinum Level partners, which in the most recent fiscal year included Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celldex, Genentech, the National Brain Tumor Foundation, Novocure and the Sontag Foundation. SNO also receives income from membership dues and from a profit sharing arrangement with our journal publisher, Oxford University Press.

Revenue generated by the Society's activities fund and maintain the SNO administrative office, the editorial offices of our two journals, *Neuro-Oncology* and *Neuro-Oncology Practice*, SNO's international outreach efforts, as well as the costs associated with the SNO annual meeting, including travel scholarships, awards and initiatives for Young Investigators.

In all, the Society's financial health is sound and we are well-positioned to support our educational mission. More detailed financial information will be included in our Annual Report which will be made available to all members at the 2015 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Respectfully submitted,
Evanthia Galanis, MD, SNO Treasurer

Membership Committee Report Year to Date 2015

The membership of SNO grew at a rate of 20% since October 2014. Current membership stands at 2075 members consisting of 1590 full members, 72 associate members, 396 trainee members and 17 emeritus members. Membership is reflective of the diversity of disciplines that are involved in the field with representation from neuro-oncology (733), neurosurgery (438), radiation oncology (182), basic sciences (235), medical oncology (125), pathology (85), pediatric oncology (66), and other disciplines including radiology, psychology, pharmacology, epidemiology, statistics, nursing and public health. Members of SNO include representatives from 43 countries spanning six continents. The future growth and success of SNO will be dependent on continued efforts to reach out to interested individuals in each of these disciplines to inform them of the advantages of SNO membership.

The Membership Committee is tasked with reviewing all applicants for membership. There are currently four levels of membership: Full membership requires a doctorate level degree and a commitment to neuro-oncology related practice or research, Associate memberships are available for those without doctorate-level degrees, Trainee memberships are available to those in scientific or clinical training, and the newly created Emeritus membership category is available to members 65 years of age or older, or by special dispensation of the membership committee.

Membership benefits include:

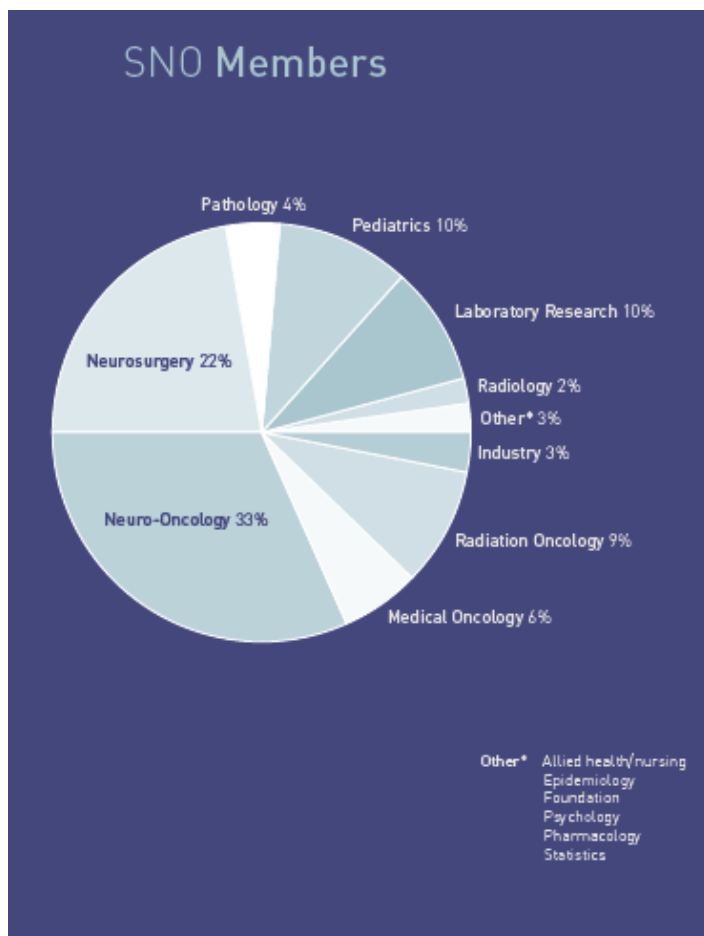
- Twelve monthly issues of *Neuro-Oncology*
- Quarterly issues of *Neuro-Oncology Practice*
- Discount to the annual SNO Scientific Meeting and Education Day
- Regular e-blasts and the SNO newsletter, and
- Ability to participate in SNO committees and groups.

In order to infuse the Society with trainee members and to develop the next generation of neuro-oncology professionals, a membership initiative was launched in partnership with Oxford University

Press. As a part of this effort, training programs are offered a complimentary 4-month online subscription to *Neuro-Oncology* and *Neuro-Oncology Practice* to residents and fellows involved in these programs. It is hoped that this will generate interest in the field, encourage attendance at the annual meeting, and will lead to increased SNO membership. To date, this initiative has resulted in 60 *gratis* subscriptions to residents and fellows around North America.

The Membership Committee encourages all members to reach out to their professional colleagues to encourage participation and to make them aware of the benefits available through active membership. This personal effort has been the key to the continued growth in our high quality and engaged membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Manmeet Ahluwalia, MD
SNO Membership Committee Chair



Report on the 3rd Biennial Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Research Conference

The 3rd biennial Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Research Conference took place at The Westin San Diego Hotel in San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter on May 7 and 8, 2015. The meeting was sponsored by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTf) and organized by the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO).

There was excellent participation of 300 clinicians, clinician-scientists, scientists, post-doctoral and clinical fellows, graduate students and other research students, representing 16 countries, including investigators from North America, Brazil, Europe, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore and New Zealand. Of the 162 abstracts, 55 were presented at the podium, 99 at the poster session and 8 additional posters were featured at the lively poster discussion session moderated by Eric Raabe and Robert Wechsler-Reya.

Both days of the conference began with three Sunrise Sessions that were well attended by conference registrants. Day 1 highlighted DIPG (Suzanne Baker, Oren Becher, Mark Kieran), Low Grade Glioma (David Ellison, Eric Bouffet) and a new topic, Proton Radiotherapy (Christine Hill-Kayser, Anita Mahajan, Daniel Indelicato). Day 2 included Ependymoma (Michael Taylor, Nalin Gupta, Shannon MacDonald), Neurocutaneous Disorders (Mary Kay Koenig, Matthias Karajannis, Joshua Rubin) and another new topic, Developmental Biology for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Investigator (David Eisenstat, Michelle Monje-Deisseroth, Robert Wechsler-Reya).

Day 1 (full day) commenced with four featured abstract presentations and was then organized along six topical sessions (ATRT, brainstem gliomas, high grade gliomas, low grade gliomas, germ cell & choroid plexus tumors and medulloblastoma) and ended with the poster and networking reception. Day 2 (half day) followed with three additional sessions focused on ependymoma and medulloblastoma. The conference closed with a keynote presentation by Richard Gilbertson on "cross-species, genome-wide hunt for drivers of pediatric brain tumors". Dr. Gilbertson was introduced by Suzanne Baker, his colleague from the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Conference co-chairs Suzanne Baker and David Eisenstat welcomed over 300 attendees to the SNO pediatric conference in San Diego.

Of note, at this 3rd multi-disciplinary conference, there were increased abstract submissions on the subjects of brain tumor immunology and immunotherapy, and of emerging importance in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology. Other highlights included molecular sub-classification of several tumor types integrating clinical, genomic and epigenomic features; new animal models for rhabdoid tumors, choroid plexus tumors and brainstem gliomas; and the increased utility of patient-derived orthotopic xenotransplants for assessing tumor heterogeneity and testing targeted therapies. Results of early phase cooperative group clinical trials were also presented, signifying increased interest of clinicians in this translational research conference concentrated on the basic biology and other research advances in pediatric neuro-oncology.

The conference co-chairs truly appreciated the excellent support of the Scientific Program Committee (Mitchell Berger, Maryam Fouladi, Stewart Goldman (ISPNO), Richard Grundy, Cynthia Hawkins, Anna Kenney, Soumen Khatua, Michelle Monje-Deisseroth, Roger Packer (ISPNO), Stefan Pfister, Eric Raabe, Michael Taylor and William Weiss). We are especially grateful to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation for their ongoing sponsorship; to Linda Greer, Jan Esenwein, Megan Bell and Chas Haynes (SNO Executive Director) from the Society for Neuro-Oncology, who ensured the success of the conference; and to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for facilitating CME accreditation for our conference participants.

In closing, we are confident that the research highlighted at this third biennial conference will lead to new diagnostic and therapeutic advances for children with brain tumors. We look forward to the next biennial conference to be held in 2017 and co-chaired by Mark Kieran and Daphne Haas-Kogan.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Baker and David Eisenstat, conference co-chairs

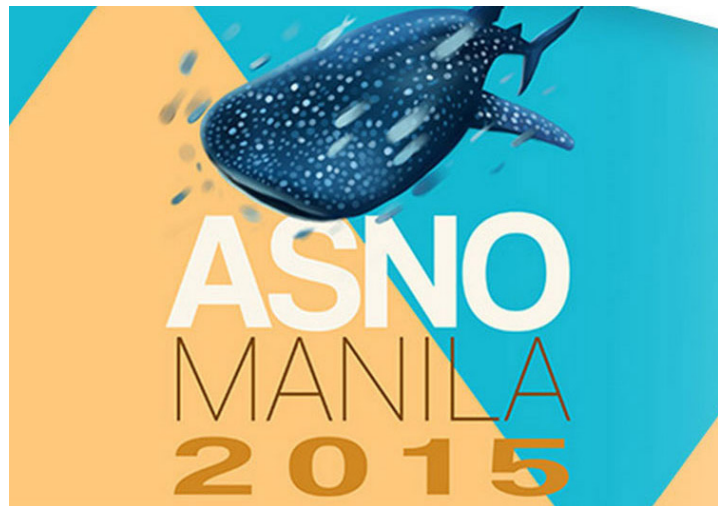
Highlights of the 12th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology

The 12th meeting of the Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology focused on “Challenges in a diverse Asia” and was held in Manila, Philippines from September 17-20, 2015. The President of the meeting was Dr. Manuel Mariano and the scientific chair was Dr. Julette Maria Batara. The meeting was a culmination of collaborations across international and national neurosurgery, neuropathology and neuro-oncology societies and was a major success in terms of the exciting topics reviewed and the educational formats and offerings provided.

This was the second year that that Society for Neuro-Oncology was a formal part of the organizing committee especially regarding the planning of the education day and presentations by faculty participants. Building on the education day from the 11th ASNO meeting held in Turkey, Istanbul in 2014, a “tumor board” of interesting cases was the basis for multidisciplinary and international perspectives with a focus on the challenges in the unique environments in Asia. This session was planned and hosted by Dr. Mark Rosenthal in collaboration with Dr. Susan Chang. Faculty participants from SNO included Drs. Ken Aldape, Susan Chang, Stewart Grossman and Gelerah Zadeh. Other SNO members who contributed to the education day and the overall meeting included Drs. Santosh Kesari, Dr. Caterina Giannini and Dr. Frederick Lang.

Several highlights of the meeting included a review of neuropathology, radiation oncology, pediatric neuro-oncology and neuroradiology, updates and sessions on leptomeningeal disease and brain metastases. Other tumor specific seminars (low grade glioma, high grade glioma, meningioma, pituitary tumors, primary CNS lymphoma and germ cell tumors and spinal tumors) were also provided. Interesting sessions on “Neuro-Oncology in the local setting” provided an opportunity for representatives from the member societies of ASNO to highlight the expanding effort to provide multidisciplinary care for brain tumor patients in Asia. One of the highlights of this session was the “International Tumor Board” which was a collaboration of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies and

the Academy of Phillipino Neurosurgeons. This was led by Drs. Zvi Ram and Gelerah Zadeh and provided a forum for discussion of the specific challenges in the management of brain tumor patients that span neurosurgical care as well as neuro-oncological treatments. Another session that was as a result of the collaboration with the WFNS was focused on novel techniques for maximal safe resection of tumors and an update of novel therapies such as the use of oncolytic viruses and tumor treating fields.



As more patients are managed by specialty centers for neuro-oncology care, being able to conduct prospective clinical studies will be an important goal and the session on “Steps Towards Building an Asian Neuro-Oncology Consortium” provided an overview of the necessary elements to move this effort forward. Drs. Grossman, Zadeh, Kesari and Giannini from SNO provided their perspectives based on their extensive experience in leading cooperative group efforts. In addition to sessions dedicated to the presentation of original research from members of ASNO, there was also a nursing symposium entitled “The challenges of managing patients with neurological complications of cancer” which was critical for engaging allied health professionals in the meeting.

It has been a privilege for SNO to participate in this rich educational meeting and members of the society should look forward to the 13th ASNO meeting in Sydney Australia in 2016 to be presided by Dr. Mark Rosenthal.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Chang, SNO representative to 2015 ASNO meeting

British Neuro Oncology Society Conference Report

The conference of the British Neuro Oncology Society, entitled “Neuro-Oncology across the Ages” was held in Nottingham, England, July 1-3, 2015. The conference opened with the Education Day simulating the clinical challenges faced by Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in the young, adults, and elderly. After that there were all the usual plenary sessions, “Meet the Experts”, proffered papers, posters and exhibitions by sponsors, plus a debate and role play.

We were delighted to welcome as invited speakers Mr Henry Marsh (St George’s, London), Prof. Jonathan Finlay (Columbus, Ohio), Prof. Michael Weller (Zurich, EANO President), Dr Simona Parrinello (Imperial College, London), Dr Mathilde Chevignard (Hôpitaux de Saint Maurice, France), Dr Katherine Warren (National Cancer Institute, USA), Dr Helen Bulbeck (Brainstrust, UK), Glenis Wilmot (MEP, East Midlands) and Dr Ralf Herold (European Medicines Agency).

We mustn’t forget, of course, another vital ingredient: plenty of opportunity for networking at the social functions (a reception at an Elizabethan mansion surrounded by a deer park – complete with lessons in how to shoot a long bow, an opera singer, and the conference dinner at which we were entertained by a band called “The Spinal Chords”).

It is difficult to cover all the topics covered but major discussion points were:

- How to reduce morbidity in child patients. A scoring system for identifying medulloblastoma patients at greatest risk of cerebellar mutism syndrome and possible altered surgical practice. Impact of using a centralised review panel on resection in ependymoma.
- How to provide optimum treatment in the

- elderly; the need for new national standards.
- How to encourage data submission to the English National Cancer Registration Service over and above what is mandatory.
- Reinstatement of non-human primate studies prior to Phase I trials in order to conduct pharmacological studies, particularly in Diffuse Pontine Glioma.
- A review of ongoing trials, focussing on bevacizumab in relapsed GBM and rindopepimut, ICT-107 and Novocure’s TTF-100A.
- The details of the Clinical Trial Regulation, which will replace the European Clinical Trials Directive in 2016.
- The top 10 clinical research priorities identified by the James Lind Alliance.
- Rehabilitation and the impressive long term in- and out-patient rehabilitation, education and treatment facilities available in Paris.
- Communicating treatment options and implications to patients.



The panel in the Debate answered questions posed by the audience on the topic: “Are brain tumour services in the UK comparable to the rest of Europe?” The UK was thought superior in use of MDTs, availability of specialist nurses, a

well-developed charity sector and its impact on decision-makers, and the existence of mandatory data collection. However, the UK was thought to be lagging behind in terms of diagnostic procedures, surgical technologies, post-operative MRIs, and patient recruitment into clinical trials.

BNOS 2016 will be held from 29 June to 1 July in Leeds, England.

Report respectfully submitted by Maryanne Roach on behalf of the BNOS Council and BNOS 2015 organising committee. July 2015.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected SNO Board Members!

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Vice President: Terri Armstrong
Secretary/Treasurer: Gelareh Zadeh
Radiology Representative: Whitney Pope

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Susan Chang, MD

SNO

The Society for NeuroOncology

The SNO News is published two times per year
and is distributed to members and friends of
the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

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