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## Message from the President



*Nathan R. Selden, MD, PhD*

I am very proud and excited to preside at the 2025 Society of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting from May 16-18, hosted by the Cleveland Clinic: "Redefining Professionalism".

Together, our community will recognize excellence in training and teaching, advance new programs to grow neurosurgeons as institutional leaders, provide just-in-time information to residency program directors and administrators, and explore models of excellence for academic health centers with Cleveland Clinic system leaders.

My Oregon Health & Science University colleague David Huang, Lasker Award winner and co-inventor of optical coherence tomography, will give the Grossman Keynote Lecture. Franz Welser-Most, award winning conductor of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, will speak about his memoir of a near career ending experience of deafness after a car crash: "From Silence". We will hear from, Itzhak Fried, this year's Winn Awardee, as well as from the inaugural 2024-2025 SNS Surgeon-Educator Fellows. Finally, SNS members will present top submitted education science abstracts.

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In addition, we will have expert interactive sessions on conflict resolution and managing distressed physicians, each with expert over-the-shoulder coaching. There will be opportunities to explore the Cushing family's deep connections to Cleveland and enjoy some spectacular Cleveland social venues. Finally, I am delighted that the SNS will be joined by leaders from the Society of British Neurological Surgeons!

My enthusiastic thanks to local hosts Mike Steinmetz, Deb Benzil, and Andre Machado; and to Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair, Randy Jensen; members, Mark Proctor and Martina Stippler; and advisor, Dave Limbrick, for putting together a terrific meeting!

The SNS remains focused on our mission of representation and service for academic department and residency program leadership in the United States. I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland as we advance that mission together!

Nathan R. Selden, MD, PhD  
Dean and Executive Vice President  
Campagna Chair of Pediatric Neurological Surgery  
School of Medicine  
Oregon Health & Science University

## 2025 Meeting Highlights

Randy L. Jensen, MD

The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SNS will occur on May 16-18, 2025; the Cleveland Clinic will host the meeting. Under SNS President, Dr. Nathan R. Selden, the scientific program **“Reimagining Professionalism”** will address this issue as it pertains to neurosurgical training. In addition to the cultural and historical opportunities that Cleveland has to offer, the meeting will offer an engaging and interactive program. This year’s program represents a departure from past programs with an opening day on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and closing session in the afternoon of Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday:** The morning session will focus on critical information for residency program directors and educational leaders. Topics will center on resident program design, finances, and program reputation. The RRC, ACGME, ABNS, CAST, and ARANS will provide updates. The afternoon session will feature an interactive training session on crucial conversations and conflict resolution led by the Cleveland Clinic Global Leadership and Learning Institute. The afternoon highlight will be hearing from the critically acclaimed Cleveland Symphony Conductor Franz Welser-Most.

**Saturday:** The local program, hosted by the Cleveland Clinic leadership of Michael Steinmetz, Deborah Benzil, and Andre Machado, will feature the institution’s vision of the future of health care organizational leadership. Jim Cotelingam, Cleveland Clinic Chief Strategic Officer, will discuss the role of private equity and for-profit systems in healthcare. Additional offerings this afternoon include a historical review of Cleveland, Cushing, professionalism, and the Presidential Address. On Saturday afternoon, topics include navigating organizational change, system consolidation, and neurosurgeons in executive leadership positions. The Winn Prize lecture will cap this exciting afternoon of instruction.

**Sunday:** The morning session features the Grossman Award Lecture, Surgeon-Educator Fellow presentations, and an abstract session focused on professionalism education. The final session of the morning will address breaches of professionalism via an interactive workshop. The afternoon session addresses program leadership development.

Along with President Selden and the members of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Dr. Randy Jensen and Dr. Mark Proctor, we hope to provide a program that inspires and engages attendees as we contemplate how to prepare for the challenges, we all face in the future of neurosurgical education. We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland!



# Save The Date

*The Society of Neurological Surgeons  
2025 Annual Meeting*

MAY 16-18

CLEVELAND, OHIO

## Message from President Elect

Richard W. Byrne, MD

This year we are all looking forward to our annual meeting in Cleveland, May 2025. We are also in the process of advanced planning for the May 2026 meeting, hosted by the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Alabama Birmingham. If you have never been to Birmingham, you are in for a pleasant treat. The topography of the northern half of Alabama features beautiful, forested rolling hills. The city itself is rich with museums, such as the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, the Negro League Museum, and local arts museums. You will experience the southern hospitality provided by our local host department, led by Jim Markert, MD, and the warmth of the south. Birmingham can be reached through most major airport hubs.

We are currently making plans for local arrangements at our host hotel, the Sheraton Birmingham, as well as attractive local venues. The meeting theme will be focused on the future of neurosurgery with the perspective of lessons from the past. Our scientific program will feature the usual critical updates needed for U.S. neurosurgery department leaders. We will also hold a special symposium focused on advances in artificial intelligence in neurosurgery. As a final special treat, we will be reviewing instructive and surprising findings from our historical archives.

I will see you all in Cleveland in May with more updates!

Richard R. Byrne, MD  
The Monica Jacoby Chair  
Professor and Chairman  
Mayo Clinic Florida



The Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training (CAST) is charged with overseeing the accreditation of 284 Subspecialty Fellowship Programs in Neurological Surgery. Dr. Vincent Traynelis is the current Chair of CAST and Dr. William Mack is the Chair-elect. The CAST Committee has representation from each of the subspecialty fellowships: Dr. Ansar Rai, Neuro-endovascular; Dr. Perry Ball, Neurocritical Care; Dr. Brian Hoh, Cerebrovascular; Dr. Jonathan Miller, Stereotactic and Functional; Dr. Jeff Weinberg, Neurosurgical Oncology, Dr. John Golfinos, Skull Base; and Dr. Michael Steinmetz, Spine and Peripheral Nerve. There are another 33 Pediatric Fellowships accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships (ACPNF). Dr. David Limbrick currently represents Pediatrics on CAST. CAST has input from multiple other medical disciplines in the endovascular and critical care domains. Dr. Howard Riina (ABNS Secretary), Dr. Richard Ellenbogen (RRC Chair), and Dr. Kristen Hirsch (ACGME Director) are ex-officio members of CAST. Leann Lepa is the CAST Administrator and Dr. Pam Derstine provides critical programmatic and administrative support.

This year, CAST reviewed 259 Annual Fellowship Program Reports. Each annual report was reviewed by Dr. Vincent Traynelis or Dr. William Mack, the CAST subspecialty representative, and a number of other individuals. After the initial reviews, three separate meetings occur to discuss the reviews and vote on approval or not. If all initial reviewers approved a program it is placed on the consent agenda. The remaining programs are discussed in detail and then approved with concern, approved with serious concern, placed on probation, or accreditation is withdrawn.

The Neuro-endovascular programs were reviewed by Dr. William Mack and the Committee members of Neuro-endovascular Surgery Advisory Committee (NESAC), chaired by Dr. Ansar Rai. NESAC is comprised of neurosurgeons, neurologists, and radiologists all with focused practice in neuro-endovascular surgery. Seventy-two programs were reviewed of which thirty-six were on the consent agenda, nineteen approved with concern, three approved with serious concern, and three were placed on probation. There were four complement reductions, two denials of complement increase, and two approved complement increases. The recommendations of NESAC were also approved by the full CAST Committee.

Neurocritical Care and Neurotrauma Programs were initially reviewed by me and the members of the Neurocritical Care Trauma Advisory Committee (NCTAC), chaired by Dr. Perry Ball. NCTAC is comprised of accredited neurocritical care specialists from neurosurgery, neurology, and anesthesia. Twenty-eight programs were reviewed, of which eight were on the consent agenda, eleven approved with concern, one approved with serious concern, and one program was placed on probation. Two programs voluntarily withdrew their Fellowship, and four programs lost accreditation. The recommendations of NCTAC were approved by the full CAST Committee.

The remainder of the subspecialty programs (Cerebrovascular, Stereotactic and Functional, Spine, Peripheral Nerve, Neurosurgical Oncology, and Skull Base) were reviewed by individuals representing the appropriate Section in addition to the CAST representative. One hundred and fifty-nine Programs were reviewed of which hundred were on the consent agenda, thirty-eight approved with concern, five approved with serious concern, and five placed on probation. Three programs were granted a complement increase, and another 3 programs had a decrease in their complement.

All concerns are to be addressed in the following annual report and, in general, the process works as follows. Failure to address a concern may result in escalating to a serious concern the next year. Failure to rectify serious concerns will lead to probation and after a year of probation, if the concerns remain, the program will lose accreditation. There is an appeal process which is detailed on the CAST website.

CAST strives to be as equitable and transparent in the process as possible and if any program or individual has a concern, please reach out to myself, Bill, Leann, or your section representative.

Vincent C. Traynelis, MD

# Membership Committee Update

Michelle J. Clarke, MD

We are pleased to present the 2025 class of Positional Members. Positional membership is granted to active Program Chairs, Program Directors, and one active Associate Program Director per program. This category of membership allows Positional Members to attend the annual meeting and serve on SNS committees. Positional Members remain eligible for consideration for election to Active Membership via the standard process, especially those with demonstrated service to the SNS.

**Matthew Adamo, MD** Albany Medical College (Program Director)

**Nitan Agarwal, MD** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
(Associate Program Director)

**Wael Asaad MD, PhD** Brown university/Brown University Health  
(Associate Program Director)

**Marian Michael Bercu, MD** Corewell Health, (Associate Program Director)

**Michael Bohl, MD** Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine (Associate Program Director)

**Nicholas Brandmeir, MD** West Virginia University, (Associate Program Director)

**Daniel Carr, DO** Henry Ford Providence Hospital (Associate Program Director)

**Roukoz Charmoun, MD** University of Kansas (Program Director)

**Rohan Chitale, MD** Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
(Associate Program Director)

**Justin Dye, MD** Loma Linda University (Program Director)

**Benjamin Elder, MD, PhD** Mayo Clinic (Program Director)

**Christopher Farrell, MD** Thomas Jefferson University (Program Director)

**Nisha Gadgil, MD** Baylor University Medical Center (Program Director)

**Matthew Gary, MD** Emory University (Associate Program Director)

**C. Rory Goodwin, MD, PhD** Duke University Medical Center  
(Associate Program Director)

**Grahame Gould, MD** SUNY Upstate Medical University (Program Director)

**Sanjeet Grewal, MD** Mayo Clinic Florida (Associate Program Director)

**Robert Gross, MD** Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson (Program Chair)

**Simon Hanft, MD** Westchester Medical Center/New York Medical College (Program Director)

**Kevin Hines, MD** Thomas Jefferson University (Associate Program Director)

**Pamela Jones, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital (Associate Program Director)

**Patrick Karas, MD** University of Texas Medical Branch (Associate Program Director)

**Prashant Kelkar, DO** Henry Ford Providence Hospital (Program Chair)

**Nickalus Khan, MD** University of Tennessee (Associate Program Director)

**Charles Kulwin, MD** Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine  
(Associate Program Director)

**Brandon Lane, MD** Indiana University School of Medicine  
(Associate Program Director)

**Ian Lee, MD** Henry Ford Health (Program Director)

**Samuel Macomson, MD** Medical College of Georgia Augusta University (Program Director)

**Allan Martin, MD, PhD** University of California, Davis (Program Director)

**Paul Mazaris, MD** Corewell Health, Michigan State University  
(Program Director)

**Debraj Mukherjee, MD** Johns Hopkins University (Associate Program Director)

**Nathan Nair, MD** Georgetown University (Program Director)

**Christina Notarianni, MD** LSUHLS-Shreveport (Program Director)

**Smruti Patel, MD** University of Cincinnati (Associate Program Director)

**Jared Pisapia, MD** Westchester Medical Center (Associate Program Director)

**Carolyn Quinsey, MD** University of Missouri (Associate Program Director)

**Ahmed Raslan, MD** OHSU (Program Chair)

**Boyd Richards, DO** Henry Ford Providence Hospital (Program Director)

**Adam Robin, MD**, Henry Ford Health (Associate Program Director)

**Brandon Rocque, MD** The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
(Associate Program Director)

**Richard Rogers, MD** Ascension St. Vincent Hospital (Program Director)

**Deanna Sasaki-Adams, MD** UAMS (Associate Program Director)

**Joseph Serrone, MD** Loyola University Medical Center (Associate Program Director)

**Julia Sharma, MD** UC Davis, (Associate Program Director)

**Jose Soto, MD** Baylor Scott and White Health, (Associate Program Director)

**Heather Spader, MD** University of Virginia (Associate Program Director)

**Allison Strickland, MD** University of Mississippi Medical Center,  
(Associate Program Director)

**Daniel Surdell, MD** University of Nebraska Medical Center,  
(Associate Program Director)

**Jamie Toms, MD** Louisiana State University (Associate Program Director)

**Kunal Vakharia, MD** University of South Florida (Associate Program Director)

**Awais Vance, MD** Baylor Scott and White Health (Program Director)

**Nilesh Vyas, MD** Inova Health System (Associate Program Director)

**Anthony Wang, MD** UCLA (Associate Program Director)

**Brian Williams, MD** University of Louisville (Associate Program Director)

**Thomas Wilson, MD** Stanford University (Associate Program Director)

**Jesse Winer, MD** Oregon Health and Science University (Associate Program Director)

**Alexander Yu, MD** Allegheny Health Network (Associate Program Director)

**Xiaofei Zhou, MD** University Hospitals (Associate Program Director)

## Research Committee Update

Costas Hadjipanayis, MD, PhD

The SNS Neurosurgeon-Scientist Training Program (NSTP) is now entering its third cycle this year. Since 2023, a total of 14 awards have been granted to neurosurgical residents by the NSTP. Areas of research funding have been limited to cerebrovascular, functional, and tumor-related projects since funding has been provided by a brain tumor nonprofit (StacheStrong) and the AANS/CNS Joint Sections in Cerebrovascular, Functional, and Tumor surgery. Resident awardee institutions include Brigham and Women's Hospital, Emory, Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic, National Institutes of Health, Northwestern, Stanford, UCLA, University of Florida, University of Washington, and Wake Forest. The NSTP serves as a formal mentored research program for those neurosurgery residents who are beginning a protected research year (Year 1) or who have already completed their protected research year (Year 2). The primary goal of this program is to provide participants with the skills, mentorship, education, and experience needed to successfully compete for individual research funding (e.g., NIH K award and R01 grants) and launch productive research careers. The NSTP seeks to also sustain the research of residents reentering their clinical responsibilities after a protected year of research.

At the 2024 CNS Annual Meeting in Houston on September 28, all NSTP recipients were able to participate in the first ever neurosurgeon-scientist symposium (see picture below). The full afternoon symposium was well attended by trainees and neurosurgeon-scientists from different institutions. Representatives of research programs available for neurosurgery trainees and junior faculty were present that included the NSTP, NREF, NINDS UE5, Emerging Investigator Program (EIP), and the NINDS NRCDP K12. Speakers discussed different early career research paths and multiple round tables permitted an open forum between trainees and faculty.

For 2025, SNS NSTP has partnered with NREF to provide links on the NREF website for Years 1 and 2 NSTP application submissions. The deadline for NSTP application submissions was December 1, 2024. A virtual study section panel will interview all applicants in the first quarter of 2025.

Costas Hadjipanayis, MD, PhD



Pictured above during a panel discussion at the first neurosurgeon-scientist symposium at the 2024 CNS annual meeting in Houston from left to right:

**Drs. Nino Chiocca, Jennifer Strahle, Linda Liau, Bill Mack, and Greg Zipfel**

## Welcome to Cleveland!

May is beautiful in Cleveland. Columbine, creeping phlox and tulips are in bloom, rain is limited and temperatures are typically perfect (lows in the 50s, highs in 70s). As co-hosts of the 2025 Society of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting, we look forward to welcoming you for an exciting program enhanced by many exciting social events and opportunities. We have worked closely with the SNS President, Dr. Nathan Selden and the annual meeting program committee, led by Dr. Randy Jensen, to maximize the resources of the city of Cleveland and the assets of the Cleveland Clinic to craft a program that addresses the latest issues facing healthcare and resident education. This is shaping up as a must attend meeting. In fact, you may want to plan to come early as there is so much to see and do. Here are just some notables:

- Harvey Cushing was born, raised and buried in Cleveland. You can visit [many spots related to the Father of the SNS and American Neurosurgery](#).
- Rock and Roll was born in Cleveland and a visit to the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#) is a rewarding experience
- [The Cleveland Orchestra](#) is one of the best in the world with concerts in the spectacular Severance Music Center. The Mandel Opera and Humanities Festival runs concurrent with the SNS meeting. The conductor-Franz Welser-Most will be one of the meeting's keynote speakers
- [The Cleveland Museum of Art](#) boasts a vibrant collection and is housed in a spectacular space.
- Just steps from the meeting hotel, the extensive shoreline of Lake Erie beckons! Take a walk, a run, or a boat ride in the many parks along the waterfront and throughout Cleveland.
- [Edwins](#) is a world renowned restaurant endeavor, in part because it is also the number one educator for prisoners. They are planning an exciting expansion of their offerings that should debut in time for the meeting.
- Cleveland has a long history of brewing beer, and today dozens of [top class micro-breweries](#) beckon-many boasting terrific food as well.

It is worth noting some of the Cleveland Clinic speakers who will contribute to the scientific content:

- [Jim Cotelingam](#) is Chief Strategy Officer and will talk about the intrusion of venture capital into healthcare
- [Rahul Tendulkar, MD](#) will share his insight on career satisfaction and staff well-being
- [James Stoller, MD](#) is Chair of the Education Institute and author of [Better Humans Better Performance](#)

May 2025, Cleveland and the SNS Annual meeting-we look forward to seeing you.

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