Dear Members and Friends of the Society,

As public health safety concerns related to COVID-19 continued throughout the summer, the SNO leadership concluded in late August that the 2020 SNO Annual Meeting scheduled for November in Austin, Texas, could not occur in person as planned. While contingency plans were already underway, the pivot to a totally online program was a massive undertaking. As we now approach the Annual Meeting – virtual style – I would like to recognize the tremendous work of the main meeting Co-Chairs Monika Hegi, Michael Lim, Farshad Nassiri and David Schiff, who have together with the SNO administrative staff, spent countless hours planning and organizing the meeting. As you browse the virtual program, you will see that the chairs have done an amazing job of assembling a virtual program that includes outstanding keynote lectures, compelling invited talks and panels, as well as recorded talks and electronic posters covering bench to bedside. I would also like to thank Daniel De Carvalho, Houtan Noushmehr, and Susan Short for their efforts to organize the Biomarker component of the Education Day, which will be broadcast live on November 19.

As we have all been required to make changes and to adapt during the pandemic,

The SNO Virtual Annual Meeting will take place from November 19-21, 2020. The education from the meeting will be provided in three distinct delivery formats:

- Live sessions: 16 hours of invited lectures and top scoring abstracts,
- On-demand sessions: 250 pre-recorded presentations, and
- Over 700 searchable electronic posters.

Collectively, this content represents over 40 hours on Continuing Medical Education credits, which is nearly double the number of hours that are typically offered for a SNO meeting.

The theme of this year’s meeting is 2020 Vision for the Future. Correspondingly, the virtual conference will focus on cutting-edge topics that will shape the future of neuro-oncology, including single-cell sequencing, big data and predictive
what has struck me as a constant and hopeful theme this year is the camaraderie of our members and the partnership of our sister societies. I was recently reminded by our colleagues at the Society for Neuro-Oncology in Sub-Saharan Africa of an old African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. I believe that this simple yet beautiful sentiment has been the hallmark of SNO’s entire year, because almost all of the initiatives we have worked on during my tenure as President have been a collective effort -- sister organizations. I would encourage you to join a special webinar on Saturday, November 21, at 10:30am EST, when Chas and I will review all of our on-going and up-coming initiatives, and learn how you can get involved.

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as the President of SNO during this unprecedented period in history. As we navigated a difficult and challenging year, I am grateful for the advice and counsel of the SNO officers, Tracy Batchelor, Erik Sulman, and Chas Haynes, as we together explored, evaluated and a myriad of options for planning our annual meeting and indeed managing the business of our Society during this challenging time. Throughout it all, we have strived to be flexible and nimble, to learn from others, and ultimately to stay focused on the SNO mission of advancing brain tumor research, education, and collaboration to drive discovery and improve patient care.

We had such high hopes for our meeting in Austin this year. Not only was this to be our first year in a convention center, we were also looking forward to celebrating our Society’s 25th anniversary. Sadly that was not to be, so we look forward celebrating our “25 plus one” anniversary in the wonderful city of Boston in 2021!
Membership Committee Report

Introduction

Membership in SNO is reflective of the diversity of disciplines that are involved in the field with representation from neuro-oncology/neurology, neurosurgery, radiation oncology, basic sciences, medical oncology, pathology, pediatric oncology, and other disciplines including radiology, psychology, pharmacology, epidemiology, statistics, nursing, industry, and public health. As a truly global Society, membership includes those from 47 countries, spanning six continents.

New International Outreach Category

SNO is committed to its international outreach efforts and continues to engage colleagues worldwide; for the 2021 membership year, an international outreach membership was added, with a reduced fee of $175/year. International Outreach memberships are available to colleagues from developing regions of the world. It is hoped that this will encourage additional participation from the global neuro-oncology community and help form meaningful collaborative relationships.

Refer a Friend Program Introduced

The Membership Committee encourages all members to reach out to their professional colleagues to make them aware of the benefits available through active membership. To assist in this effort, any active member (trainee, full, emeritus) who refers three colleagues* to SNO membership in 2021 (trainee, international or full), will receive a complimentary membership for the 2022 membership year. New members can simply enter the referring members name in the “referred by” section of the application. In addition, and in recognition of SNO’s 25th anniversary, members who refer 25 colleagues in 2021 will receive complimentary membership for life! *Student members or student referrals are not eligible.

Conclusion

Current SNO membership stands at 2268, which includes 54 emeritus members, 1702 full members 346 trainee members, and 166 student members. Due to the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of the field, this represents a decrease in membership when compared to the same time last year. However, as the timing of the renewal process has been altered by the transition of the annual meeting to a virtual format, the impact of COVID-19 on overall membership will likely not be known until early in 2021. Although 2020 has been a challenging year, we are encouraged by our member’s dedication to their patients, research, and each other. We will continue to look ahead and focus on the future.

Respectfully submitted, SNO Membership Committee Co-Chairs, Sameer Agnihotri, John de Groot, Rohan Ramakrishna, and Alissa Thomas
Linda Greer
Manager, Member and Program Services
A complete listing of membership levels and their corresponding benefits can be found by clicking here.

International Outreach Committee Update

Due to the worldwide pandemic, the travel scholarships typically awarded to attend the SNO Annual Meeting were unfortunately cancelled. The program will be deferred until 2021, and those who submitted this year will be invited to reapply in 2021 when the SNO Annual Meeting will be in Boston, Massachusetts.

The International Outreach Committee recommended to the SNO Board that reduced registration rates for the Annual Meeting should be extended to attendees from developing regions of the world. The Board approved this recommendation, and for the first time, a designated International Outreach registration rate was offered as part of the 2020 meeting, which of course will be virtual this year. Reduced International Outreach rates will also be incorporated into SNO’s other stand-alone conferences and events.

An International Mentorship Program is in development and will be launched in 2021. The committee is also working with the editors of Neuro-Oncology Advances to publish a dedicated supplement on neuro-oncology research in low income countries. A webinar organized by the IOC will be broadcast in early 2021.

The IOC looks forward to 2021 with the hope that the challenges presented by the pandemic usher in a renewed enthusiasm for advancing neuro-oncology education across the globe.

Respectfully submitted, International Outreach Committee Co-Chairs, James Balogun, Zarnie Lwin, Edjah Nduom
Ancillary Meetings Held in Advance of SNO

2020 Think Tank on Neuro-Oncology Clinical Trials

November 6, 2020, 9:00am-5:00pm EST

SNO is pleased to host the Clinical Trials Virtual Think Tank Meeting on November 6, 2020. Each session of this full day event will provide opportunities for discussion and to address questions submitted by the audience. Registration is required but there is no charge for participation. The presentations will be recorded and available for viewing at the conclusion of the course on the SNO website. Click here to view the program and to register.

The virtual think tank will aim to cover a range of topics including:

- Opportunities to use novel trial design techniques such as synthetic control arms, big data, and artificial Intelligence
- The potential role of nuclear imaging and immune imaging
- Pharmacodynamic biomarker development during pre-clinical phase of drug development
- Early phase pre-surgical trials: Phase 0
- Combination trials and changes in how to attribute efficacy and/or toxicity to individual components of combination therapies
- How to best integrate predictive biomarkers
- What changes are needed to make tangible advances in the field?
- Key Neuro-Oncology, FDA and Pharma leaders will offer a range of topics to address the essentials of effective clinical trial design in the treatment of CNS malignancies.

Educational Goals

Upon completion of this course, participants will have an improved understanding of the practical aspects of clinical trial designs from topics that include the role of nuclear imaging, pharmacodynamic biomarker development, combination trials, research from other diseases, and predictive biomarkers.

Planning Committee

Stephen Bagley
Patrick Wen
Mustafa Khasraw
Timothy Cloughesy

2nd Annual Neuro-Oncology Fellow and Early Clinician/Investigator Career Retreat

November 9, 2020, 7:00pm-9:00pm EST
November 10, 2020, 6:30pm-8:30pm EST

SNO and members of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Section on Neuro-Oncology are pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Neuro-Oncology Fellow and Early Clinician/Investigator Career Retreat on Monday, November 9, 2020, and Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

SNO and the AAN have a history of supporting careers in neuro-oncology. SNO and members of the AAN present the annual career retreat as part of their commitment to the future of neuro-oncology and the specialists who will create it. This course includes a comprehensive exploration of issues of importance to early career neuro-oncologists in the clinic and in the laboratory. This program was designed with both clinical and laboratory professionals in mind; we encourage fellows and early career faculty from any related neuro-oncology specialty to participate. If you are a Fellowship Director, Division Chief, or Leader in Neuro-oncology, please encourage your fellows and early faculty to register.

Planning Committee

Scott Plotkin
Milan Chheda
Gavin Dunn
Paul Kongkham
Sylvia Kurz
Eudocia Lee
Jennifer Moliterno
Maciej Mrugala
Ganesh Rao
Roy Strowd
RANO at SNO Virtual Meeting

November 10, 2020
11:00am- 2:00pm EST

The Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO) session that would normally be part of the Society for Neuro-Oncology’s Annual Scientific Meeting will be held as a virtual webinar on November 10, 2020, from 8-11am PST (11am- 2pm EST). This live webinar will highlight the efforts and progress being made by the various RANO working groups. There will be time for discussion and to address questions submitted by the audience. Registration is required but there is no charge for participation.

Additional Pre-recorded Talks
Supplemental pre-recorded talks will be available on the SNO website that will outline the progress and future directions for the following working group efforts:

- Neurological Assessment in Neuro-Oncology
- Seizures
- Patient Reported Outcomes
- Leptomeningeal Metastases
- Liquid Biopsy
- Positron Emission Tomography
- Metastases
- Meningioma
- Low Grade Glioma
- Trial Accrual

These talks will not be presented at the time of the live event, but you will have the opportunity to ask questions during the live session from 10:10-10:30am PST.

Meet the Experts at SNO
Informal question and answer sessions in small groups for young investigators and trainees

The SNO Young Investigators Committee, led by Milan Chheda, Eudocia Lee, and Jennifer Moliterno Gunel have organized a special opportunity for young investigators and early career members to join small group chats with senior SNO leaders on Saturday morning, November 21, from 10:00-10:30am ET during the Virtual Annual Meeting. Senior leaders include:

- Meet the Clinical Trialist – Patrick Wen (Dana Farber Cancer Institute)
- Meet the Adult Neuro-oncologist – Susan Chang (University of California San Francisco)
- Meet the Neurosurgeon – Antonio Chiocca (Brigham and Women’s Hospital)
- Meet the Radiation Oncologist – Christina Tsien (Johns Hopkins)
- Meet the Computational Biologist – Roel Verhaak (Jackson Labs)
- Meet the Laboratory Scientist – Russell Pieper (University of California San Francisco)
- Meet the Neuropathologist – Jason Huse (MD Anderson Cancer Center)
- Pediatrics - TBD
- Industry - TBD

Space is limited to 13 young investigators per chat, and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Look for an e-blast in coming days with registration information.

SNO Clinical Trials Course

November 17–18, 2020
10:00am-2:00pm EST both days

After the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the first course in 2019, the planning committee has expanded the course both to the number of participants as well as the content. A series of didactic lectures will be presented by pre-eminent faculty with specific areas of expertise with respect to clinical trial design and conduct and will be open to all interested colleagues. These presentations will also be recorded and available for viewing at the conclusion of the course on the SNO website. To view the preliminary program and to register, click here.

Upon completion of this course, participants will have an improved understanding of the practical aspects of therapeutic CNS trials, including: understanding the fundamentals of good trial design; understanding the scientific, statistical, regulatory, logistical and ethical aspects of CNS trials; integrating correlative studies in CNS trials; mitigating challenges to accrual and overcoming accrual barriers; and anticipating the future direction of CNS trials.

Planning Committee
Stephen Bagley
Susan Chang
Maryam Fouladi
Mustafa Khasraw
Annette Molinaro
Ian Parney
Vinay Puduvalli
Erik Sulman
Patrick Wen
2020 SNO Named Awards

Abhijit Guha Award & Lecture
Amy Heimberger

Jointly awarded by SNO and the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS, the Guha Award recognizes an accomplished physician-scientist who has made significant contributions in laboratory-based science. In addition, the award seeks to recognize an individual who has played an active role in the mentorship of the next generation of neuro-oncology professionals.

This year's winner of the Abhijit Guha Award & Lecture is Amy Heimberger, who will deliver her lecture on Friday, November 20 during the SNO Virtual Meeting. The presentation is entitled, The Immune Landscape of CNS tumors: Implications for Immunotherapy.

Jan Esenwein Public Service Award
Linda Greer

The Jan Esenwein Public Service Award recognizes a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions to the field of neuro-oncology and advanced the mission of SNO.

Linda Greer, a SNO staff member since the Society’s inception 25 years ago, retires from SNO at the end of the year, and the leadership was unanimous in its decision to recognize Linda’s many years of dedicated service to SNO.

A perennially smiling face behind the registration desk at the Annual Meeting, and often the first point of contact for new members, Linda knows practically all members by name. She has been a tremendous asset to SNO for a quarter-century and the Society wishes her well in all of her future endeavors.

2020 SNO Abstract Awards

Abstract Award for Excellence in Adult Basic Science
Lu Sun
TAMI-01: Neoadjuvant PD-1 antibody blockade remodels the immune microenvironment of metastatic brain tumors

Abstract Award for Excellence in Adult Basic Science
Aaron Diaz
EPCO-17: A single-cell atlas of glioblastoma evolution under therapy

Abstract Award for Excellence in Adult Clinical Research
C. Mircea S. Tesileanu
CTNI-23: IDH1/2wt anaplastic gliomas of the EORTC randomized phase III intergroup CATNON trial: overall survival related to treatment, MGMT status and molecular features of glioblastoma

Andrew Parsa Young Investigator Award
Radhika Mathur
EPCO-31: Epigenomic intratumoral heterogeneity of glioblastoma in three-dimensional space

Abstract Award for Excellence in Adult Clinical Research
Mary Jane Lim-Fat
EPID-11: A multi-institutional comparative analysis of the clinical, genomic, and survival characteristics of pediatric, young adult and older adult patients with IDH-mutant glioma

Marit Mary Swenson Award for Pediatric DMG/DIPG
Charles Day
CBIO-16: Suppression of histone H3.3 mitotic phosphorylation drives development of H3K27M-mutant diffuse midline gliomas

Abstract Award for Excellence in Practical and Applied Research
Emilie Le Rhun
NCOG-02: Prognostic validation of the EANO ESMO classification of leptomeningeal metastasis

Abstract Award for Excellence in Neuro-Imaging
Enoch Chang
NIMG-03: Deep Learning Survival Analysis for Multiple Brain Metastases

Abstract Award for Excellence in Neuro-Imaging
Ragini Verma
NIMG-45: Deep learning-based Peritumoral Microstructure mapping in Glioblastomas using free water volume fraction

For presentation times, click here.
Women and Diversity Committee Update

December 4, 2020
4:00pm-5:00pm EST

This year, the SNO Women and Diversity Committee’s Women in Neuro-Oncology (WiN.) working group will be hosting a virtual one-hour panel presentation on Friday, December 4th, from 4:00 to 5:00pm ET. To register, click here.

Panelists will discuss how COVID-19 has affected SNO members professionally, academically, physically, and personally. Panelists include Wendy Sherman (Mayo-Jacksonville), Maryam Rahman (University of Florida), Ugonma Chukwueke (Dana Farber/Brigham Women’s Program), and Maciej Mrugala (Mayo-Scottsdale). Katy Peters (Duke University) will moderate this program. This event is open to all SNO membership. Additionally, we will honor the 2020 Women in Neuro-Oncology Mentorship Award and Mid-Career Exemplary Physician Award awardees.

Women and Diversity Committee WiN Working Group Named Awards

2020 Women in Neuro-Oncology Mentorship Award

Lynne Taylor

This award recognizes a female SNO member who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to mentorship in the field of neuro-oncology. The award acknowledges those women who make a significant positive impact on their mentees’ education and career and who assist mentees in advancing research or patient care in the field of neuro-oncology.

2020 Women in Neuro-Oncology Mid-Career Exemplary Physician Award

Alyx B. Porter

Award to honor mid-career female physicians (MD, DO) who have shown early success and promise for significant career achievements in neuro-oncology through research, education, service, advocacy, clinical performance, and who have worked to promote the role of women in the field of neuro-oncology.

Women and Diversity Committee WiN Working Group Abstract Awards

2020 Women in Neuro-Oncology Basic/Translational Science Research Abstract Award

Jasmin Sponagel

TAMI-37: Sex differences in redox state underlie glutamine dependency in male glioblastoma

2020 Women in Neuro-Oncology Clinical Research Abstract Award

Isabel Arrillaga-Romany

CTNI-37: Efficacy of ONC201 in patients with ONC201 for recurrent H3 K27M-mutant diffuse midline glioma

For presentation times, click here.
CNS/SNO Virtual Brain Tumor Board: Four-part Webinar Series
Next installment: December 8, 2020, 8:00pm EST

SNO honored to join forces with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons to introduce a new Virtual Brain Tumor Board. In collaboration with the Joint Section on Tumors and The Neurosurgical Atlas, this quarterly webinar series features experts in brain tumor management (including neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, radiation oncology, neuropathology, radiology, and other specialists) who discuss real-life cases presented by an expert faculty.

The next Virtual Brain Tumor Board will focus on Low Grade Glioma, and is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 8:00 pm EST. The session will be moderated by Susan Chang and Aaron Cohen-Gadol, and will feature panelist Isabelle M. Germano, Jason Huse, Helen Shih, Erik P. Sulman, and David D. Tran. For more information and to register, click here.

Recent Webinars
The webinars listed below were recently broadcast and are now available for on-demand viewing in the SNO Education Center.

Ultrasound Blood Brain Barrier Disruption in Neuro-Oncology

SNO was pleased to partner with the Focused Ultrasound Foundation (FUSF) for an exciting webinar broadcast on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, entitled Ultrasound Blood Brain Barrier Disruption in Neuro-Oncology. Ultrasound mediated blood brain barrier disruption (BBBD) is a rapidly developing approach to enhance small molecule, antibody and cell delivery to brain tumors. Multiple clinical trials are on-going or in development. This webinar brought together the industry advancing this technology, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, and investigators to update viewers on opportunities and challenges for using ultrasound BBBD to deliver therapeutics to brain tumor patients. To view the webinar in SNO’s Education Center, click here.

Patient-Centered Communication Via Telehealth in Neuro-Oncology

SNO partnered with the National Cancer Institute’s Center for Cancer Research Neuro-Oncology Branch and the University of Rochester’s Wilmot Cancer Institute, to broadcast a webinar entitled Patient-Centered Communication Via Telehealth in Neuro-Oncology. The broadcast addressed ways to build rapport and connection with the patient and their caregiver(s) during telehealth visits, use patient-centered communication strategies to improve patient outcomes, and provided and strategies for navigating conversations with patients and caregivers. To view the webinar in SNO’s Education Center, click here.

Global Research in Rare CNS Tumors

SNO was honored to facilitate a four-hour virtual course on the challenges of clinical care and research in rare CNS tumors, and a discussion of possible solutions to improve outcomes. The course, entitled Transdisciplinary Global Research in Rare CNS Tumors: A Framework to Impact Outcomes Across CNS Disease, was a collaborative effort of the Society for Neuro-Oncology; National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health; Erasmus MC Cancer Institute; Yale University; Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Piedmont Healthcare; Cambridge Cancer Center; CRUK Cambridge Institute; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Heidelberg University Hospital; and the Jackson Laboratory. The webinar was originally broadcast on September 25, 2020. To view the webinar in SNO’s Education Center, click here.

Challenges in Palliative and Supportive Care for Patients with Neuro-Oncologic Illnesses

Deborah Forst of the Massachusetts General Hospital delivered a webinar of August 6, 2020, entitled Challenges in Palliative and Supportive Care for Patients with Neuro-Oncologic Illnesses. The broadcast addressed the unique challenges faced by providers caring for patients with neuro-oncologic illnesses, and provided strategies for effective communication between clinicians and neuro-oncology patients. To view the webinar in SNO’s Education Center, click here.
2020 Elections

Congratulations of the following new members of the SNO Board of Directors. The newly elected members will assume their positions upon the conclusion of the virtual annual meeting in November.

Basic Science Representative: Joseph Costello
Medical-Oncology Representative: Erin Dunbar
Neurology Representative: Eudocia Q. Lee
Neurosurgery Representative: Linda Bi
Other Representative: Jill Barnholtz-Sloan
Pediatric Representative: Annie Huang

2020 SNO Committees

Audit Committee
Chair: James Perry

Awards Committee
Co-Chairs: Daphne Haas-Kogan, Susan Chang
Eva Galanis

Bylaws Committee
Chair: Jeffrey Wefel

Communications Committee
Co-Chairs: Alireza Mansouri, Jennie Taylor

Education Committee
Co-Chairs: Patrick Wen, Isabel Arillaga-Romany

Fellowship Match Committee
Co-Chairs: Maciej Mrugala, Leia Nghiemphu, Scott Plotkin

Future Sites Committee
Presently inactive

Guidelines and Reported Outcomes Committee
Co-Chairs: Burt Nabors, Jana Portnow

International Outreach Committee
Co-Chairs: James Balogun, Zarnie Lwin, Edjah Ndoum

External Relations Committee
Co-Chairs: Erin Dunbar, Vinay Puduvalli

Membership Committee
Co-Chairs: Rohan Ramakrishna, Sameer Agnihotri
John de Groot, Alissa Thomas

Public Policy Committee
Co-Chairs: Antonio Chiocca, Raymond Sawaya

Website and Technology Committee
Chair: Erik Sulman

Wellness Committee
Co-Chairs: Alvina Acquaye, Terri Armstrong, Shlomit Yust-Katz

Women and Diversity Committee
Co-Chairs: Shawn Hervey-Jumper, Ugonma Chukwueke, Alyx Porter Umphrey

Young Investigators Committee
Co-Chairs: Milan Chheda, Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, Eudocia Lee

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Solmaz Sahebjam, Medical Oncology
Jennifer Yu, Radiation Oncology
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SNO News
The SNO News is published two times per year and is distributed to members and friends of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

Editors: Jennie Taylor, Alireza Mansouri
SNO Communications Chairs
Associate Editor: Chas Haynes

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