

17th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology

By Nicholas Butowski, MD

We are days away from the 17th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology, to be held November 15-18, 2012, in Washington, DC. Accolades to meeting chairs, Drs. E. Antonio Chiocca (Scientific Chair), Balveen Kaur and Vinay Puduvalli (Education Day Co-Chairs), and Michael Glantz (Quality of Life Chair), for composing a comprehensive program highlighting cutting-edge laboratory and clinical research. The meeting promises to be an exceptional environment for exchange of ideas among clinical and laboratory scientists in the fields of neuro-oncology, medical oncology, neurosurgery, neuropathology, radiation oncology, neuroradiology, pediatrics, nursing and other specialties involved in the research, diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with central nervous system tumors. In addition to the stimulating Education Day and the abstract driven scientific sessions of the main meeting, SNO is delighted to offer a number of innovative features for this year's meeting, including a special biomarkers course, a keynote address from Dr. Bert Vogelstein, a new Public Service Award, the inaugural Abhijit Guha Award and Lecture, expanded sessions for Young Investigators, and an evening satellite on 1p/19q codeleted anaplastic gliomas.



The 2012 SNO Annual Meeting will be held at the iconic Washington, DC Hilton Hotel

On Thursday, November 15th, the pre-meeting will begin with the Education Day program consisting of concurrent morning sessions entitled Targeted Therapies Against Primary Brain Tumors and Quality of Life / Symptom Management. The afternoon session offers a program titled SNO Course on the Basics of Biomarkers 2012. That night, the meeting commences with the SNO official welcome reception.

Friday, November 16th starts with four Sunrise Sessions on the following topics: 1) EANO and SNO Joint Session: From Guidelines To New Trials in Low Grade Gliomas: The American and European Views; 2) NF2 Update: Hearing Restoration and Foundations for the Future; 3) Energetics and Metabolism; 4) Re-engineered T Cells and Bone Marrow Cells. The first plenary session will begin with an official meeting welcome by Dr. Chiocca followed by a Public Service Award presented to Edward Shaw and by presentation of Top-Scoring Abstracts. Subsequent to these events will be the presentation of the first Abhijit Guha Award to James Rutka, and a keynote lecture given by Bert Vogelstein.

We look forward to a Young Investigators Luncheon Roundtable at noon on Friday (Pre-registration via SNO website required). Afternoon concurrent sessions include 1) Medical, Neuro- and Radiation Oncology and 2) Basic Sciences. The next set of concurrent sessions includes:

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From the President

Dear Colleagues:



Kenneth Aldape, MD

In this edition of the SNO Newsletter, I am proud to be able to share with you some of the accomplishments at SNO over the past year. As we grow as an organization with over 1200 active members to date, each annual meeting becomes more impressive than the last and 2011's meeting in Anaheim was no exception. There were a record number of attendees, we had a successful meeting carried out in collaboration with

the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons Joint Section on Tumors and we are indebted to Tim Cloughesy and Michael Vogelbaum for jointly arranging a wonderful scientific program and Eric Chang, Arjun Sahgal, Jason Sheehan for leading the education day.

I am pleased to announce some exciting developments for the 2012 meeting in Washington DC. There were 605 abstracts submitted and this year's scientific program will be led by Antonio Chiocca, who deserves special thanks for organizing this critical component of the Society's activities. There will be an opening session devoted to the top-scoring abstracts, so all attendees will have a chance to share in the best research being conducted across neuro-oncology sub-specialties. The prior day (Thursday November 15) Balveen Kaur and Vinay Puduvalli have jointly coordinated an outstanding education day and Mike Glantz has put together an equally outstanding quality-of-life session to be held concurrently. This year a clinical trials session, with a focus this year on biomarkers, has been added on Thursday afternoon, with leadership by Susan Chang. We will also have the opportunity to recognize Edward Shaw, who will be honored with the Public Service Award in honor of his years of dedication to our Society. Greg Cairncross and Bob Jenkins will receive the Victor Levin Award and James Rutka will receive the Abhijit Guha Award. For junior members, we have the annual Young Investigators Luncheon, as well as a new Career Development networking session, led by Jason Huse, to be held just after the close of the scientific program on Sunday. Finally, we are in for a special treat with a keynote lecture by Bert Vogelstein on Friday, who will

also make some remarks at the Young Investigators Luncheon.

In November 2013, the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology will meet in San Francisco, bringing together members of SNO, the Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ASNO), and the European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO) and we look forward to a dynamic meeting. Mitchel Berger and additional SNO members will plan this meeting, in collaboration with colleagues from ASNO and EANO.

I am also happy to share that the impact factor of the Society's official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, continues to rise, now over 5.723, solidifying its reputation as the leading journal in the field. Its success is in large part due to the dedication of the editor-in-chief, W K Alfred Yung, along with executive editors David James, Michael Weller and Ryo Nishikawa and their efforts at setting high-quality standards for the journal. We would like to thank the SNO membership for continuing to send manuscripts containing significant findings to *Neuro-Oncology*, which is an essential part of making the journal a huge success.

To continue its mission in promoting the advancement of neuro-oncology through education, SNO has developed several new initiatives aimed at increasing opportunities for junior investigators. These include international travel scholarships focused on junior investigators and reciprocated by EANO. This year, SNO members Justin Lathia and Sameer Agnihotri were awarded travel scholarships to the EANO meeting in Marseille, France. In addition, two junior EANO members received travel scholarships to attend and present at this year's SNO meeting. The travel scholarship also serves as a mechanism to expand our collaborative relationships with sister societies and to foster the international relationships that are so enriching to the field.

Another major accomplishment of SNO during the past year has been our success in collaborating with other organizations with similar goals. In addition to our new meeting with the Joint Section on Tumors, we continue to be involved with the coordination of the tumor club at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research to broaden our base and forge relationships with other scientists. This year we also worked with members of the International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology (ISPNO) and contributed to administrative aspects of ISPNO

meetings in an effort to support this specialized field. By all accounts this year's meeting was highly successful. The next meeting of ISPNO will be in 2015. In addition, a Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Science meeting, supported by a grant from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, will be held May 16-18, 2013, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge some of the individuals that have made SNO a success and by extension furthered the development of neuro-oncology as a field. First, much appreciation goes to the SNO Foundation members Mark Gilbert (chair), Mitchel Berger, Susan Chang and Victor Levin and members of the Partners Advisory Council for their continued support and guidance as the Society continues to grow. Thanks also to the 2010-2011 president Frederick Lang for his service to SNO and the continued leadership and initiation of SNO member volunteers for continued successful programs to foster collaboration. I would also like to recognize the members of the Board of Directors for their willingness to represent the diverse disciplines of the Neuro-Oncology community and for their input into critical aspects of operating the Society. Special thanks go to Chas Haynes, Linda Greer, and Jan Esenwein for administrative support, without which we could not be as successful. This team provides the continuity needed to allow smooth transitions between leadership periods and maintains a cohesive infrastructure for the Society.

A volunteer spirit and a willingness to contribute is what makes SNO thrive and I strongly encourage members to take an active role in SNO committees to bring new perspectives and to strengthen the group overall. In addition to shaping our future as a Society, the collaborations and friendships fostered as a result of participation in the Society remind us of why we have chosen this challenging field, they keep us focused on the discovery process for a better understanding of the biology of CNS neoplasia, and inspire us to learn how to better care for our patients.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Aldape, MD
SNO President

Annual Meeting...continued from page 1

1) Symptom Management, Neuro-cognitive and Quality of Life; and 2) Molecular Epidemiology, -Omics and Prognostic Markers. After an exciting, first of its kind, town-hall style meeting on the management of 1p/19q co-deleted anaplastic gliomas, the evening will be open for poster sessions, which always offer an opportunity for lively discussion and debate.

Saturday, November 17th Sunrise Sessions feature the following topics: 1) Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology Session; 2) The CMV and Glioma Connection; 3) Mechanisms of Glioblastoma Immuno-evasion; 4) Pituitary Tumors: Biology and Treatment. Next is the presentation of the Victor Levin Award and Lecture by Gregory Cairncross and Robert Jenkins. The first afternoon concurrent sessions are 1) Cell Biology/ Signaling and Epidemiology or 2) Pathology and Radiology with subsequent afternoon concurrent sessions on 1) Angiogenesis/Invasion and 2) Surgery and Immunology. The second poster session will take place after the oral sessions conclude for the day. That evening, the SNO Banquet promises to be the social highlight of the meeting.

Sunday, November 18th witnesses the first SNO highlights session – an invitation only press program that will highlight new advances in neuro-oncology, major trial results, and significant advances in supportive care and patient quality of life. Sunrise Sessions include 1) Oncolytic Viruses: Clinical Trials Update; 2) The Radiobiology of CNS Tumors; 3) The Biology of Brain Metastases; and 4) MicroRNA Biology in CNS Tumors. These are followed by a plenary session presenting Top Scoring Abstracts and a RANO session prior to the meeting adjournment.

Immediately following the conclusion of the regular scientific sessions of the meeting, there will be a special Career Development and Networking Session, from 12:00pm to 2:30pm. For more information on this session, please see page 6 of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the nation's capitol for this exciting meeting!

To download the most recent version of the program and for additional meeting details, visit:

www.soc-neuro-onc.org

Young Investigator and Career Development Sessions at SNO

By Jason Huse, MD

Members are encouraged to note the following special sessions that will be held during our 2012 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, next month.

Young Investigators Round Table Luncheon

This popular lunch event features an opportunity to join senior experts in neuro-oncology for an informal round table lunch in one of the following table themes: Neurosurgery, Adult Neuro-Oncology, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, Basic Science, Translational Science and Radiation Oncology. Our featured keynote speaker, Burt Vogelstein, will deliver a brief introduction and share his expertise in mentorship, followed by a brief question and answer period prior to the individual table discussions. The lunch will take place on Friday, November 16, from 12pm - 1pm. There is no charge for this event, however, you must register your participation and choose your table topic.

Networking and Career Development Session

This innovative and exciting new event will take place immediately following the end of the regular sessions of the SNO annual meeting, from 12:00pm to 2:30pm on Sunday, November 18. Attendees will take part in an organized networking and mentoring session. 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 organized session will be followed by an informal reception to allow for more extensive follow-up conversations. Lunch and refreshments will be available for registered participants. There is no charge for this event, however, you must specifically register to confirm your attendance. Space is limited, so those interested are encouraged to register via the SNO website as soon as possible.

Note: While this event has been initiated by the SNO Young Investigators Committee, we would like to encourage members at all career levels to participate. Visit: www.soc-neuro-onc.org to register.

Neuro-Oncology's New Impact Factor Rises to 5.723!

SNO is pleased to announce that Thomson's ISI Web of Knowledge Journal Citation Report has assigned the Society's official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, with an ISI Impact Factor of 5.723 in its most recent ranking, up from 5.483 last year. This rating solidifies the journal's reputation as the leading journal in its field, placing *Neuro-Oncology* ahead of its direct peer neuro-oncology journals, establishing it as fifteenth among all ranked clinical neurology journals and twenty-second among other oncology journals. Congratulations are due to editor in chief W K Alfred Yung and the entire editorial team for this outstanding achievement.

Symposium on Meningioma Announced

The AANS/CNS 10th Biennial Satellite Tumor Symposium is scheduled for April 26-27, 2013, in conjunction with the 2013 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. This year the Society for Neuro-Oncology will join the Section on Tumors in hosting a special symposium on meningiomas which will take place from 1:30pm-6:00pm on April 27. Taken together, the multidisciplinary nature of this biennial event will provide an exceptional opportunity to share and discuss fundamental advances in neuro-oncology and neurosurgical oncology.

About the Program

Recent advances in the classification, molecular categorization, and reporting of long-term outcomes of meningiomas has led to an increased interest in the role of multi-modal therapeutic approaches for these tumors, especially when non-benign or recurrent. An expert panel of surgeons, pathologists, translational scientists, radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists will describe the impact that these advances have had on optimizing treatment of patients with meningioma, and they will also discuss new therapeutic approaches and targets that may be of utility. Finally, experts will debate the role of radiation therapy in patients with WHO grade II meningiomas, and then discuss evolving clinical trial opportunities for these patients. Session organizers: Michael Vogelbaum, Patrick Wen, and Leland Rodgers.

For more information, please visit: www.tumorsection.org/news/meetings.php

2012 Victor Levin Award & Lecture

By Mark Gilbert, MD

The Victor Levin Award recognizes a career commitment to neuro-oncology displaying leadership and innovation leading to extraordinary achievements in the field.

This prestigious award will be given to Drs. Gregory Cairncross and Robert Jenkins in recognition of their



Gregory Cairncross

seminal work in understanding the clinical and molecular aspects of oligodendroglioma. On the basis of their efforts, a new standard of care was established for a subset of these brain tumors and has led to the creation of international clinical trials to refine the existing treatment paradigms. Drs. Cairncross and Jenkins will deliver a plenary lecture on Saturday, November 17, at the



Robert Jenkins

2012 SNO meeting in Washington, DC.

2012 Abhijit Guha Award & Lecture

By Mark Gilbert, MD

The recipient of the First Abhijit Guha Award will be presented to Dr. James Rutka, a neurosurgeon and scientist at the University of Toronto, Sick Kids Hospital. Dr. Rutka was selected for this award because he demonstrates the qualities exemplified by Dr. Guha.

These include being an outstanding clinician with an active laboratory effort and an excellent track record of training fellows, residents, and students along with a strong interest in mentoring. This award, provided jointly by SNO and the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS, acknowledges the importance of collaborations between the neurosurgical and brain tumor community in making advances in knowledge and treatment for these diseases. Dr. Rutka will deliver the Abhijit Guha Lecture on Friday, November 16, at the 2012 SNO meeting in Washington, DC. Dr. Guha's wife, son and daughter have been invited as guests of SNO to present the inaugural award to Dr. Rutka.



James Rutka

SNO Introduces New Public Service Award

By Chas Haynes, JD

The SNO Board of Directors has introduced a new award to recognize a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions to the field of neuro-oncology and the mission of the Society.

The SNO Public Service Award seeks to honor those who have increased public awareness

of brain cancer, advanced advocacy, promoted legislative action, or have otherwise supported the mission of the Society for Neuro-Oncology. Candidates do not have to be a SNO member to be eligible for this award, and may be a healthcare provider, administrator, patient, family member,



Edward Shaw

caregiver, elected official or advocate.

The SNO Board was unanimous in agreeing that Edward Shaw should be selected as the inaugural recipient of this award. In 2005, while serving as SNO President, Dr. Shaw initiated a strategic planning process which led to the establishment of the SNO Foundation, ensuring the long-term security and financial stability of the Society. His work to strengthen SNO's administrative infrastructure allowed SNO to evolve into a mature organization and a dynamic force in neuro-oncology.

Dr. Shaw will receive the inaugural SNO Public Service award during the opening plenary session of the upcoming annual meeting on November 15, 2012, in Washington, DC.

SNO Announces Winner of Third International Outreach Fellowship

SNO is pleased to announce that Dr. Rahul Krishnatry of India has been selected as the third SNO International Outreach Research Fellow. This Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono. The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has agreed to host Dr. Krishnatry for the one-year Fellowship period. While in Canada, he will be under the mentorship of Eric Bouffet. Dr. Krishnatry has been invited to be a guest of SNO at our 2013 annual scientific meeting that will take place in San Francisco, in November, 2013, where he will have the opportunity to update our membership on his progress in Toronto.

SNO International Travel Scholarships

To date, the SNO International Outreach Committee has awarded travel scholarships to the SNO annual meeting to physicians from the following countries:

Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Columbia, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritanie, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Venezuela, Yemen

2012 Travel Scholarship Recipients

Hamoud Hodeish Yahya Al-hussaini, Yemen
Asha Arjunan, India
James Ayokunle Balogun, Nigeria
Keith R. Britton, Panama
Navchaa Gombodorj, Mongolia
Edin Hajdarpasic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Rashim Kataria, India
Rosario Marissa B. Lukban, Philippines
Kamal Eldein Hamed Mohamed, Sudan
Damayanthi Pieris, Sri Lanka
Ana Veronica Giron Santizo, Guatemala

SNO Mourns the Passing of Dianne Traynor

Dianne Traynor, president and co-founder of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and co-founder of the Ride for Kids motorcycle charity program, died July 20, 2012, in Atlanta after a long illness. Dianne and her late husband, Mike, began the Ride for Kids program in 1984 to raise funds for childhood brain tumor research. Its success led them to start the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, which is now the world's largest philanthropic organization dedicated to finding a cure for the deadliest form of childhood cancer.

The PBTF has supported basic, translational and clinical research at more than 50 institutions around the world. In addition, the Foundation has been a long-time supporter of the Society for Neuro-Oncology, providing the original grant that led to the creation of the Society's official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*. Dianne also served on the board of directors of the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States and was a patient advocate for the National Cancer Institute's Brain Tumor Specialized Program of Research Excellence. Her tireless devotion to the pediatric neuro-oncology community will be missed and the legacy she and Mike created will continue to impact researchers, patients, and families for generations to come.

2013 Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Research Conference Announced

The 2nd Bi-annual Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Research Conference will take place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on May 16-17, 2013. Organized by the Society for Neuro-Oncology, with the generous support of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the conference will offer attendees a state-of-the-art update in the field of pediatric brain tumor research. The program will feature popular and informative plenary sessions and informal poster sessions, as well as "Meet The Expert" sunrise sessions, at which attendees can catch up with late breaking areas of research and controversies in the field. Dr. James Rutka of the Hospital for Sick Children, will serve as Scientific Chair. Abstract submission and registration information will be available on the SNO website in the near future.

SNO Membership Update

By Greg Foltz, MD

SNO continues to grow with an overall increase in membership of 12% over the past year. Current membership stands at 1293 members consisting of 1118 Full members, 40 Associate members, and 135 Trainee members. Membership continues to reflect the diversity of disciplines that impact neuro-oncology with representation by neurosurgery (18%), neuro-oncology (26%), radiation oncology (8%), basic sciences (9%), medical oncology (5%), pediatric oncology (4%), pathology (5%) and other disciplines including radiology, psychology, pharmacology, epidemiology, statistics, nursing and public health (each < 1%). 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 reviews all applicants for membership. There are currently three 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, and Trainee memberships are available to those in scientific or clinical training.

Membership benefits include:

- Twelve monthly issues of *Neuro-Oncology*
- Discount to the annual SNO Scientific Meeting and Education Day
- Regular e-blasts and neuro-oncology news
- Access to members-only section of the SNO website

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.

We encourage anyone interested in more information about Membership Committee activities to contact: linda@soc-neuro-onc.org.

European Association of Neuro-Oncology Meeting Report

By Susan Chang, MD

The French Society “Association des Neuro-Oncologues d’Expression Francaise ANOCEF” hosted the 10th European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO) conference in Marseille from September 6-9, 2012. The venue was wonderful - rich in history, tradition and culture as well as exceptional cuisine. The President of the organizing committee, Olivier Chinot in conjunction with Dr. Wolfgang Grisold, the President of EANO, and members of the scientific committee, developed an exciting educational and scientific program which was attended by more than 900 registrants.

The educational day focused on clinical trials of targeted agents, and there were scientific sessions that highlighted the research being conducted in the fields of pediatric neuro-oncology, brain metastases, immunotherapy, angiogenesis, molecular markers and imaging. There was a whole day session dedicated to nursing research and care, and topics included neurocognitive disorders, psychosocial evaluation as well as palliative care and caregiver support.

There was active participation of members of the Society of Neuro-Oncology enhancing the international collaboration among the societies. Dr. Joseph Costello from the University of California, San Francisco was one of the keynote speakers and he presented his work on genetic and epigenetic changes during malignant transformation of low grade glioma. Melissa Bondy from the Baylor College of Medicine was another keynote speaker and reviewed the epidemiological research efforts in Neuro-Oncology.

In addition there was a joint EANO/SNO session that reviewed recent topics in Neuro-Oncology chaired by Ricardo Soffietti and Ken Aldape with participation by Michael Weller and Wolfgang Wick from EANO and Mark Gilbert and Susan Chang from SNO.

There was also a meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies led by Dr. Grisold that reviewed the collaborative efforts among SNO/EANO

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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.

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and the Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ASNO). Items discussed included the special issue of *Neuro-Oncology* focused on quality of life that consists of peer-reviewed articles contributed from all 3 societies and which will be published in time for the SNO meeting in November 2012; international fellowships and scholarships; and the upcoming quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology (WFNO) Meeting to be held in San Francisco, California, from November 21-24, 2013.

There will be a WFNO planning meeting held at the upcoming annual SNO meeting to continue the active discussion of these efforts.

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