

19th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology

By Nicholas Butowski, MD

Time is swiftly approaching for the 19th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology to be held November 13-16, 2014, at the Loews Hotel South Beach in Miami, Florida. See the SNO website for further information www.soc-neuro-onc.org. Members should note that on Wednesday, November 12, there will be pre-conference sessions, including a “Neuro-Oncology Review Course” and the “CNS Anticancer Drug Discovery/Development Conference”.

This year’s Education Day, held on Thursday November 13, is entitled “Metastasis to the CNS: Biology and Consequences” which includes concurrent Quality of Life Sessions focused on Neurologic Rehabilitation, Pediatric Survivorship, and Caregiving. That night, the meeting commences with the SNO Welcome Reception.

The Scientific Meeting begins Friday, November 14. Credit to scientific meeting chairs, Drs. Patrick Wen and Gelareh Zadeh for composing a comprehensive program built on the traditional SNO format presenting top-scoring abstracts, plenary talks, and mini-symposia. This year’s meeting also incorporates several new features, including an additional concurrent session each day, an increase



The 2014 Annual Meeting will be held at the Loews Hotel South Beach

in the number of sunrise sessions, the introduction of e-posters viewable via kiosks located around the meeting space, more educational content during lunch breaks, and the introduction of discussed rapid reports. Friday begins with sunrise sessions starting at 7am, followed by the first general session. The five Sunrise Sessions will be on the following topics:

- Session 1: Molecular Pathology for the Clinician
- Session 2: 5-ALA Guided Surgery
- Session 3: ASNO Session: CNS Germ Cell Tumor
- Session 4: Ependymomas
- Session 5: Meningiomas

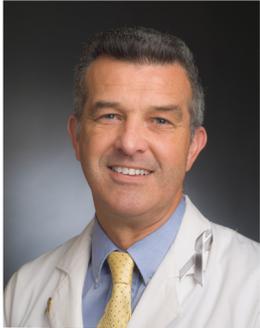
After the sunrise sessions, the first plenary session will begin with an official meeting welcome by Drs. Wen and Zadeh followed the top scoring abstracts and travel awards. Following will be the Abhijit Guha Lecture by Kenneth Aldape and the Victor Levin Lecture by Michael Prados. Up next is the Presidential Address by Dr. David Reardon which will include the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award (Darell Bigner) and Public Service Award (Denis Strangman). Lunch will include the option of attending an Imaging Standardization Symposium, a DNA Copy Number Variation Practicum, or Industry Sponsored events. Afternoon concurrent sessions include 1) Clinical Trials and 2) Preclinical Models & Biological Therapeutics. The next set of concurrent

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From the President

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,



David Reardon, MD

I'd like to take the opportunity to provide an interim report highlighting the key efforts of SNO during the first year of my term as president. First and foremost, I would be remiss to not acknowledge those who have made these efforts possible including my predecessor, Kenneth Aldape, whose wisdom and input have been invaluable, the hard work

of the SNO administrative staff led by Chas Haynes, the critical support and efforts of the SNO Board of Directors and Executive Board, and last but not least, the support of our SNO Partners.

A major priority of SNO leadership has historically been to make our Annual Meeting as productive and informative as possible. This is an exciting time for our field and the 2014 Annual SNO meeting reflects the breadth and depth of clinical, basic science and quality of life efforts ongoing to improve outcome for our patients. I am deeply indebted to the co-chairs of this year's meeting, Drs. Patrick Wen and Gelareh Zadeh. Thanks to their energy, enthusiasm and experience, the 2014 Annual meeting promises to be outstanding by combining an exciting program with a highly attractive venue in South Beach, Miami. Special thanks also to Burt Nabors, Terri Armstrong, David Schiff, Alisdair Rooney and Eudocia Quant-Lee who have put together a very informative Education Day program focusing on neurologic complications of cancer and brain metastases.

The 2014 Annual Meeting integrates important modifications which we hope will enhance the overall meeting value including more sunrise sessions, a format of 3 concurrent sessions (all prior meetings have had only 2), a significant increase in oral presentations via a new "rapid oral reports" category, and the use of electronic abstracts, which will be accessible during the entire meeting via strategically placed kiosks. After the meeting, please give us your feedback on these modifications or provide other suggestions to help us make the 2015 meeting even more effective. Your input is crucial!

During the past year, SNO has continued an ongoing effort to update our utilization of advanced technology in order to further promote the activity and collaboration of

SNO members. An exciting update of the SNO website has just been unveiled which also includes seamless access to a companion member communication platform. Special thanks to Erik Sulman for his hard work bringing these efforts to fruition. In the upcoming year, a subcommittee led by Erik Sulman and Nic Butowski will explore additional opportunities to utilize existing technologies to enhance SNO's mission and interaction of members. Please contact myself, Chas Haynes, Erik or Nic if you wish to contribute.

Patrick Wen has done an outstanding job as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Neuro-Oncology*. He has implemented a broader organizational tree for submission reviews as well as other modifications that have enhanced the value of the journal. *Neuro-Oncology Practice*, led by Editor-in-Chief, Susan Chang, will begin its second year in print and is growing at a very healthy rate. Please contact Patrick and Susan if you have content suggestions for the journals or wish to be formally involved with their activities.

Another key priority going forward is enhancing SNO's contribution to our field on a more global level. We continue to work to strengthen our interactions with our colleagues in EANO and ASNO. In addition, it is very gratifying to see that a number of new national neuro-oncology societies are emerging around the world. The international outreach committee of SNO, led by Gelareh Zadeh, has initiated an effort to support the organization of neuro-oncology conferences in global regions where nascent, formal neuro-oncology societies and integrative research efforts are developing. The SNO Foundation, together with matching funds from the University of Toronto, will help support this very important effort and our goal is to conduct the first conference within the next year.

Looking ahead to 2015, there is much to do. SNO leadership remains committed to advancing our Society with an overall goal of improving outcomes for CNS tumor patients. Please contact me, Chas Haynes, our vice-president Nino Chiocca, our secretary/treasurer Eva Galanis or any other member of the Board of Directors for suggestions on other initiatives or to volunteer to help. Everyday, your efforts make a difference in the individual lives of our patients. With your help, the efforts of the SNO community can impact the neuro-oncology field and population afflicted with CNS malignancies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

David A. Reardon, MD

SNO Honors Darell Bigner with Lifetime Achievement Award



Darell Bigner

The Society for Neuro-Oncology is pleased to announce Dr. Darell Bigner, Director of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University, has been honored with SNO's Lifetime Achievement Award. This 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. Bigner will be honored during the Presidential Address at the 2014 SNO Annual Meeting on Friday, November 14, in Miami, Florida.

SNO Honors Michael Prados with 2014 Victor Levin Award



Michael Prados

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.

Michael Prados, Director of Translational Research in Neuro-Oncology at the University of San Francisco Medical Center.

Dr. Prados will deliver a plenary lecture entitled *Thoughts on the Meaning of Success or Significance (or both) in Translational Neuro-Oncology* at the 2014 SNO Meeting on Friday, November 14.

Kenneth Aldape Receives 2014 Abhijit Guha Award

The Society for Neuro-Oncology and the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS are pleased to award the 2014 Abhijit Guha Award to Dr. Kenneth Aldape of the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto.



Kenneth Aldape

This award, sponsored jointly by SNO and the Section on Tumors, acknowledges the importance of collaborations between the neurosurgical and brain tumor community in making advances in knowledge and treatment for these diseases. Dr. Aldape will deliver the Abhijit Guha Lecture entitled *Neuropathologists: Who Needs Them?* during a plenary session of the 2014 SNO Meeting on Friday, November 14.

Dennis Strangman Receives SNO Public Service Award



Dennis Strangman

The SNO Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Dennis Strangman of the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA) has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 SNO Public Service Award. This award recognizes Mr. Strangman's many years of service to the field of neuro-oncology and his advocacy on behalf of brain tumor patients worldwide. Mr. Strangman will be honored during the Presidential Address at the 2014 SNO Meeting on Friday, November 14.

sessions includes 1) Pediatric Tumor Biology 2) Preclinical Models & Biological Therapeutics, and 3) Clinical Pediatrics. Friday evening incorporates industry supported symposiums and a poster viewing reception.

Saturday, November 15th Sunrise Sessions feature the following topics:

- Session 1: Targeted Molecular Therapies
- Session 2: Focused Ultrasound in Neuro-Oncology
- Session 3: Pediatric Gliomas
- Session 4: Epilepsy in Brain Tumor Patients: Management Issues
- Session 5: SNO/EANO Session: Controversies in the Management of Lymphoma

Afterward we head in to morning concurrent sessions on 1) Tumor Metabolism/Microenvironment, 2) RANO Town Hall-Clinical Trial Endpoints or 3) Tumor Biology I. The Saturday mid-morning concurrent sessions are 1) Tumor Angiogenesis/ Microenvironment, 2) Clinical Trials, and 3) Tumor Biology II. Lunch incorporates the Young Investigators Grant Writing Luncheon as well as industry sponsored events. Saturday afternoon plenary sessions include an Immunotherapy Minisymposium and Tumor Metabolism Symposium with a Keynote from Dr. Craig Thompson entitled "The Role of IDH Mutations in Glioma Pathogenesis". A poster session will take place after the oral sessions conclude for the day. That evening, the SNO Gala Dinner at the Pérez Art Museum Miami promises to be the social highlight of the meeting (Pre-purchased ticket required).

Sunday, November 16th Sunrise Sessions include:

- Session 1: Vaccine Therapy
- Session 2: The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)
- Session 3: Neuroimaging
- Session 4: Stem Cell Biology
- Session 5: Animal Modeling

These sessions are followed by concurrent sessions on 1) Neuroimaging, 2) Patient Reported Outcomes and Neurocognition, and 3) WHO and Molecular Classification Forum. The last concurrent, mid-morning sessions are 1) Tumor Biology III and 2) Stereotactic Radiosurgery, Radiation Oncology, Brain Metastasis and 3) Bioinformatics/Genomics/ Biomarkers followed by the meeting's adjournment.

Get ready to experience the moon over Miami!

Networking and Career Development Reception

This innovative and exciting event returns for a third year and will take place Thursday evening, November 13th from 7:00-8:30pm. 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.

While this event has been initiated by the SNO Young Investigators Committee, we would like to encourage members at all career levels to participate.

There is no charge for this event, however, you must specifically register to confirm your attendance. Space is limited, so please register via the SNO website, www.soc-neuro-onc.org, as soon as possible!

International Outreach Lunch

The International Outreach Committee will hold a special lunch session open to all members on Saturday, November 15th, from 12:00-1:30pm. Dr. Mark Bernstein from the University of Toronto will be the featured speaker, with a presentation on Neuro-Oncology in the Developing World. Dr. Marcos Maldaun, President of the Society for Neuro-Oncology Latin American (SNOLA) will provide an update on his recent efforts in South America.

Gelareh Zadeh will introduce the inaugural International Outreach Symposium Awards. This exciting new initiative will strengthen the ties between SNO and the international neuro-oncology community. The 2014 International Travel Scholarship recipients will also be recognized at the lunch.

The lunch will be held at the James Hotel in the Great Room, which is located directly next to the conference hotel. Lunch will be provided at the James.

Still Time to Reserve a Ticket for the SNO Gala Dinner

This year's Gala Dinner at the SNO annual meeting will be held at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), which is located in beautiful Museum Park on Miami's waterfront. The Pérez Art Museum Miami is an architecturally significant building designed by the award-winning architectural firm, Herzog & de Meuron. This impressive structure has helped to transform Museum Park into one of the most exciting cultural destinations in Miami.



The Perez Art Museum Miami is the site of the SNO 2014 Gala Dinner

The PAMM contains over 1300 works of art across a range of media. Exhibits are primarily international works of the 20th and 21st centuries with a special emphasis on the art of the Americas.

SNO has arranged for a complete buy-out of this impressive venue, so attendees will be able to visit all of the galleries in the museum in addition to enjoying an hors d'oeuvres reception and a three-course meal. Transportation will be provided to and from the conference venue.

As a special treat, the Tübinger Saxophon-Ensemble will be entertaining attendees with selections from their repertoire of classical saxophone music. The Ensemble, which includes SNO presenter Stefan Pfister, has won numerous awards in their home country of Germany and around the world.

Seating is limited and tickets will sell-out prior to the event, so please visit the SNO website, www.soc-neuro-onc.org, to reserve your seat at the Gala today!

New Tutorial Sessions at SNO

Preparing a Phase I/II Clinical Trial

This clinical trials session will provide information on the how to design high quality phase I and II trials in neuro-oncology. There will be a focus on the critical issues and pitfalls in designing these studies.

Thursday, Nov 13, 5:30-7:00 pm

Location: Cowrie 1,2

Imaging Standardization Symposium

This Imaging Standardization Symposium will focus on the role of standardization and quantitative analysis of imaging acquired for brain tumor drug trials.

Friday, Nov 14, Noon-1:30 pm

Location: The James Hotel –Great Room

Copy Number Variation

This is a new session being introduced for the first time at this meeting. As it is an interactive session, space will be limited to approximately 20-30 attendees on a first come first serve basis. Challenges to the detection and interpretation of somatic copy-number alterations in cancer will be discussed.

Friday, Nov 14, Noon-1:30 pm

Location: Venus

CSNO Lunchtime Session

This session will focus on developing strategies to improve the training of academic neuro-oncologists and their ability to conduct high quality clinical trials in China and similar countries.

Saturday, Nov 15, Noon-1:30 pm

Location: Moon

More information on these tutorial sessions can be found on the SNO website, www.soc-neuro-onc.org

Report of the 11th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology

By David A. Reardon, MD

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) was held in Istanbul, Turkey from September 11-14, 2014. The vitality and continued growth of ASNO over the past several years was readily apparent in this year's annual meeting. Several hundred participants, representing a multitude of countries, attended ASNO 2014. Importantly, a growing number of attendees came from many smaller Asian countries which have historically had limited participation in ASNO. Several members from SNO and EANO also attended and contributed to ASNO 2014, highlighting the growing intercontinental interactions in our field. Dr. Turker Kulic deserves special recognition for his outstanding role as overall host and Chair of ASNO 2014 in this historic and beautiful city.

This year's ASNO meeting was preceded by a highly successful Education Day that was led by Susan Chang, MD, and included multi-international and multi-disciplinary faculty. The ASNO meeting itself was packed with several concurrent sessions focusing on clinical data and studies relevant to specific CNS tumor types as well as preclinical sessions dedicated to multiple important laboratory topics. In addition, important quality of life sessions were integrated into the program. Original data from attendees was highlighted at each of these sessions.

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Northcutt who was selected as the recipient of the SNO travel scholarship to ASNO 2014. Dr. Northcutt provided an oral presentation of some of his work entitled *Enhancer hijacking activates GF11 family oncogenes in medulloblastoma*.

During the meeting exciting plans for ASNO 2015, which will be hosted in Manila, Philippines by Dr. Manuel M. Mariano, were introduced.

Treasurer's Report

It is with great pleasure that I report that the Society for Neuro-Oncology's overall financial status remains solid and in good health.

Total revenue in our 2014 fiscal year was over \$2.4 million, representing an increase of \$300,000 over fiscal year 2013. After factoring in expenses, the Society's change in net assets was \$398,000. 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, Merck, the National Brain Tumor Foundation, Novocure, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the Sontag Foundation. SNO also receives income from membership dues and from a profit sharing arrangement with the publisher of our journal, Oxford University Press. The journal continues to enjoy a healthy profitability.

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 2014 Annual Meeting in Miami.

Respectfully submitted,
Evanthia Galanis, MD
SNO Treasurer

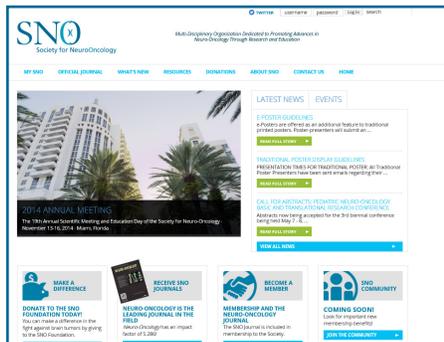
New Website Launched

SNO has launched an entirely redesigned website to improve communication among our membership. The launch is the culmination of more than six months of development to modernize and improve the utility of the premier online portal of the SNO membership.

Updates include a clean and up-to-date look and feel as well as easier access to news, events, and the annual meeting. From the re-imagined home page, prospective members can apply for membership and existing members can access SNO's official journals, *Neuro-Oncology* and *Neuro-Oncology Practice*, as well as information about the Annual Meeting.

Behind the scenes, the website is driven by a new content management system (CMS), allowing the SNO administrative staff the ability to modify and add content rapidly and manage memberships and meeting registrations all within a unified system. The website makes use of the latest in online security to ensure the safety of the members' personal information.

Beginning in November, the website will include the new SNO Community, a social networking platform for the SNO membership. For the first time, SNO will sponsor a secure portal for direct interaction of its members, including discussion groups and the sharing of content. The SNO Community will allow for real-time access to the membership as well as foster areas of common interest among groups of members. Use it as a way to interact privately with selected colleagues or publically to the membership to foster collaborations, plan for face-to-face interaction at SNO meetings, exchange research content, or ask and answer clinical and research questions of the membership.



Look for more information following the launch of the SNO Community portion on the website soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Sulman, MD, PhD
Website Committee Chair

Membership Committee Report Year to Date 2014

The membership of SNO grew at a rate of 20% since October 2013. Current membership stands at 1737 members consisting of 1423 full members, 64 associate members, 244 trainee members and 6 emeritus members. Membership is reflective of the diversity of disciplines that are involved in the field with representation from neuro-oncology (520), neurosurgery (334), radiation oncology (154), basic sciences (153), medical oncology (108), pathology (85), pediatric oncology (83), and other disciplines including radiology, psychology, pharmacology, epidemiology, statistics, nursing and public health. Members of SNO include representatives from 48 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 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Manmeet Ahluwalia, MD
SNO Membership Committee Chair

Congratulations to the Newly Elected SNO Board Members

Basic Science Representative: Frank Furnari, PhD

Neuro-Oncology Representative: Tracy Batchelor, MD, MPH, MS

Other Specialties Representative: Jeffrey Wefel, PhD, ABPP

Neurosurgery Representative: John Sampson, MD, PhD, MHSc, MBA

Medical Oncology Representative: Ingo K. Mellinghoff, MD

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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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