



The SBNS Spring 2024 meeting was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, in the heart of Scotland’s capital and was a great success both academically and socially. This was largely due to the high standard of presentations and high calibre of the speakers. We were pleased the [Societa Italiana di Neurochirurgia](#) (SINch) could join our meeting as invited guests. Seven of their nominated speakers gave plenary talks and their

President delivered one of our eponymous lectures. The British Neurovascular Group also joined the meeting and ran a half day sub-specialty meeting prior to the start of the Main conference. Their meeting focused on neurovascular registries and the [Model Hospital System \(GIRFT\)](#).

Day 1 – The Neurovascular theme continued in the main meeting as the conference opened with a Lifelong Learning session which focused on Vascular surgery. The Lifelong Learning Session is a regular feature at our meetings and is an ideal way for delegates to be updated on the chosen topic. The guest speakers: Johann DuPlessis, Drahoslav Sokol, Ian Anderson, Nihal Gurusinghe and Marco Cenzato gave some interesting talks, which covered a variety of topics: INR Practice, Acute ischaemia in MoyaMoya disease, SAH, AVMs and training.

The Welcome Address was given by the SBNS President, Prof Peter Whitfield and the conference host, Imran Liaquat, a consultant from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The Sir Victor Horsley Lecture entitled “*Micro neurosurgery: reflections from the past guiding the future.*” was given by Ioannis Fouyas, a senior member from the host unit.

The opening free paper session was on ‘Global Neurosurgery’ was chaired by Nigel Mendoza, the chair of the SBNS Global Neurosurgery Initiative. This topic is something the SBNS is very passionate about,

and our Global Neurosurgery Committee has a lot of projects in the pipeline. Carl Bruce and Mark Morgan travelled from Jamaica to speak during in the session to launch the Caribbean/SBNS Exchange Fellowship.

Sustainability within neurosurgery was another key topic addressed at the meeting. Contributors to this session were Ewan Jack, Rose Ingleton and Russell Andrews from the USA.

The Welcome Reception was held at the Dynamic Earth Science Centre. The event is an excellent opportunity to meet the hosts, catch up with old colleagues and make new friends. At the start of the evening delegates had an opportunity to view the scientific exhibits, this was followed by a buffet dinner and while the drinks flowed, our delegates were entertained by a live band of neurosurgeons from the Scottish units, playing an eclectic mix of music: Indian, Opera and of course Scottish!

Day 2 – For the early risers, a 5 km run around the streets of Edinburgh was arranged to get the energy flowing. The meeting commenced with a Breakfast Seminar sponsored by Insightec entitled: *MRgFUS: Restoring Order to Movement & New Frontiers in Neurosurgery*.

The eponymous Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture was given by Prof. Maurizio Fornari, President of SINCh. His talk was on comprehensive management of spinal cord tumours. This was a popular talk, and the feedback was excellent.

The day ended with a Gala Dinner at the National Museum of Scotland, which is one of Edinburgh's top visitor attractions. Our guests were piped into dinner which was held in the fabulous main hall with its 'birdcage' structure, delicate cast-iron balconies, and a soaring glass roof. After a delicious dinner, prizing giving and toasts the dance floor began to fill up as we were entertained by yet another band of multi-talented Neurosurgeons, aptly named "The Nutcrackers"!

Day 3 – Kicked off with another morning run (there were fewer takers due to excessive partying the night before). I am pleased to say more delegates managed to rise for the Breakfast Seminar, which was sponsored by Integra/Codman - *From ICP to ICMore - The Role of Advanced Analytics*.

The next session covered yet another Hot Topic - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Neurosurgery. It was led by Kathrin Whitehouse, the SBNS EDI Chair, who presented the results of the Sexual Misconduct in Neurosurgery Survey which all attendees were encouraged to complete throughout the meeting. Other speakers in this session were: Carrie Newlands who spoke on the recent publication "Sexual Misconduct in Healthcare - Breaking the Silence", Silvia Hernandez-Durain from Germany - "The Glass Ceiling for Underrepresented Minorities in European Neurosurgery" and the SBNS President, Prof. Whitfield who covered - Avoiding collective normalisation and collusive permission: the SBNS Code for Conduct at Conferences. It was truly a thought-provoking session.

The final eponymous lecture, the Sir High Cairns Lecture, was given by Professor Sethu Vijayakumar. This was entitled "From Automation to Autonomy: Machine Learning for Next-generation Robotics" and gave a fascinating insight into the future of surgery.

The SBNS would like to say a big thank you to all who contributed to make this such an enjoyable and memorial meeting.



Preparations are now underway for the SBNS Autumn meeting which will take place at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham, 24-27 September 2024. The event will be hosted by our SBNS Colleagues at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. We are also pleased to announce that the [Belgian Society of Neurosurgery](#) and the [British Neuro Oncology Group](#)

[\(BNOS\)](#) will be joining the meeting as our invited guests. To find out more about the meeting and to submit an abstract please visit the [Birmingham 2024 conference page on the SBNS Website](#). **Abstract Lines close on the 5th of June 2024!** We look forward to welcoming you to the vibrant city of Birmingham in September 2024.



In October 2026 the Society of British Neurological Surgeons will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary and we would like to extend a warm invitation to our fellow neurosurgical colleagues from around the world to join us, especially if you have either trained in the UK or have some affiliation with a Neurosurgical Unit in the UK. This will not just be a celebration of the formation of our Society, but also of the journey

Neurosurgery has taken over the past century including the related neurosciences. Mark your diaries and we look forward to welcoming you to our capital city in 2026.

SBNS Meetings Committee