



BNOS Speakers



The SBNS Autumn meeting, held at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium, was an immense success, and the delegates were bowled over by the interesting programme and high caliber of the speakers, both international and home grown.

The British Neuro Oncology Society (BNOS) were the invited subspecialty group and held a phenomenally successful meeting on Tuesday afternoon which covered Vorasidenib in IDH1 mutant IgG, awake surgery, and diffuse pontine gliomas. It proved to be

a very popular meeting and, as such, was oversubscribed. The Oncology theme continued the following day as it was the subject for the pre-meeting Lifelong Learning session.

Day 1 - The Welcome Address was given by the SBNS President, and the conference hosts, Victoria Wykes & Georgios Tsermoulas, from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. This was followed by Sir Victor Horsley Lecture entitled "Specialisation in Neurosurgery, what have we achieved: a personal view" was delivered by Richard Walsh, a senior consultant from the host unit.



Richard Walsh

Spencer Hampton launched the inaugural Neuro Theatre Network Group gathering (NTNG) at the meeting. The aim of the group is to connect with and support other Neuro centres and theatre nurses across the UK. An NTNG meeting is planned to be held at every SBNS Autumn meeting going forward.

The first Allied Health Free Paper Session was also held at the meeting. Mary Braine the President of British Association of Neurosurgical Nurses (BANN) and Anne Preece, Head Injury Clinical Nurse Specialist chaired the session and gave plenary talks. The meetings committee plan to make this a regular feature as the SBNS would like to encourage more interaction with Allied Health workers at our events.

The day finished off with the parallel short oral sessions followed by the Welcome Reception with a delicious Indian buffet, Birmingham is the home of the Balti, with guided tours of the stadium.

Day 2 - Morning got off to a good start with a Breakfast Seminar sponsored by BK Medial on “Intraoperative ultrasound: Tumour and ventricles and beyond” delivered by Will Lo, and at the start of the Vascular Free Paper Session Prof Andrew King presented the long-awaited results of the SCIL Trial: the results showed the IL-1RA had no benefit in reducing strokes in SAH.



Tim Mitchell, Jason Juen & Peter Whitfield

The rest of the day was packed with Free Paper Sessions with plenary talks by experts in their field, including some by our Belgian guests. Later we had two prestigious lectures. Jason Juen chose the SBNS Meeting to deliver the RCS Arris Gale Lecture on “Dopamine and Serotonin measurements in Deep Brain Stimulation for Neuropsychiatric Disorders – a novel approach” and the President of the Belgium Neurosurgical



Bart Depreitere

Society, Bart Depreitere, delivered the Sir Geoffrey Jefferson Lecture on “Advancing monitoring technologies for acute brain injury: a glimpse in the future”. Both lectures were interesting and thought-provoking. Other controversies were debated later in the day, with our international speakers giving their views on Chiari management, pre-natal surgeries and spinal intervention.

The Hot Topic Session covered various issues: Workforce & Training, Surgical Audits, the SBNS Help Line and an update on the SBNS 100 meeting and anniversary History Book. Speakers included the President of the RCSEng, Tim Mitchell, the President of the EANS, Torstein Meling and Sir Norman Williams, Chair of National Consultant Information Programme.



Prof. Peter Hutchinson & Prof. Peter Whitfield

The Gala dinner was held in the iconic Library of Birmingham amongst the numerous shelves of books, but there was no time for browsing as we were too busy enjoying the delicious food, wine, and good company. During the after-dinner speeches Prof. Peter Whitfield reluctantly handed over the SBNS Presidency (he enjoyed his two years more than he thought he would) to Prof. Peter Hutchinson. In his inaugural speech, Hutch, as he is more affectionately known, thanked Peter for his valuable contribution and leadership and gave a brief outline of his proposed plans for the next two years and the lead up to the SBNS 100 Anniversary meeting.

Professor Nihal Gurusinghe, MBE, was later presented with the SBNS Medal for his contributions to the SBNS and neurosurgery.

The evening ended with everyone dancing the night away till midnight. A few partygoers continued to enjoy the nightlife of Birmingham City. It is not on par with New York, the city that never sleeps, but it is getting there!

Day 3 - We always aim to make the Friday morning Breakfast seminar something delegates will want to get up early for and we struck lucky when BrainLab said they wanted to run one entitled “The Video Games Industry’s GenAI Revelations - Unleashed on Neurosurgery” with Sam Glassenberg, Founder & CEO, Level Ex as their speaker. I was no surprise that attendance and feedback were excellent.



Prof. Sanjay Sisodiya

The rest of the morning consisted of Free Paper sessions, including one on Global Neurosurgery, chaired by Nigel Mendoza, the SBNS Global Initiative lead. The Sir Hugh Cairns Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sanjay Sisodiya, entitled “Exploring the relationship between Climate change and neuroscience”, which gave us all something to think about regarding what we can do at home and at work to improve the environment and help save the planet for the benefit of patients.



Victoria Wykes looking heavenly 😊

Victoria Wykes delivered the closing remarks on behalf of her colleagues at Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The SBNS would like to say a big thank you to our hosts in Birmingham, our speakers from the Belgium Society of Neurosurgery: Bart Depreitere, Annie Dubuisson, Philippe DeVloo, Thomas Menovsky, and Johnny Duerinck, the numerous plenary speakers, international and home grown, the chairs, local helpers and the fantastic AV team from Talking Slides for their valuable contribution to the meeting. The feedback from the delegates was wonderful.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the next SBNS Meeting which will be held at the International Conference Centre in Belfast, N. Ireland in March 2025.



To find out more visit the Belfast conference page on the SBNS website www.sbns.org.uk

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The SBNS Meetings Committee