



# WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

*President:*

**Nelson M. Oyesiku**

*President-Elect:*

**Najia El Abbadi**

*First Vice-President:*

**Miguel A. Arraez**

*Past President:*

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*President of the XVIII Congress:*

**Graham Fieggen**

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*Second Vice-Presidents:*

**Frederick Boop (AANS)**

**Katharine Jann Drummond (AASNS)**

**Bello B. Shehu (CAANS)**

**Jesus Lafuente (EANS)**

**Marcos Masini (FLANC)**

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

**H. Azevedo-Filho** **A. Konovalov**

**A. Basso** **E. R. Laws**

**J. Brotchi** **M. Loyo-Varela**

**M. Choux** **J.G. Martin-Rodriguez**

**N. Dan** **R. Patterson**

**A. El Khamlichi** **L. Quintana**

**N. Hashimoto** **F. Rueda-Franco**

**R. Heros** **M. Samii**

**A. Hudson** **R. Spetzler**

**H. W. Jung** **F. Tomasello**

**T. Kawase** **Y.K. Tu**

**S. Kobayashi** **U. Türe**

*Historian:*

**Yong-Kwang Tu**

*Coordinator Committee Activities:*

**Kenan Arnautovic**

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*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:*

**Rohen Harrichandparsad**

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**Nqobile Thango**

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**Allan Taylor**

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**David Roytowski**

*Chairman, Scientific Programme Com:*

**Anthony Figaji**

## WFNS CENTRAL OFFICE

Českomoravská 2510/19

190 00 Prague 9, Czech Republic

Website: [www.wfns.org](http://www.wfns.org)

## Second Vice-President's Report North American delegation December 4, 2023 Frederick Boop MD

Dear Secretary Morita,

I am pleased to report that the North American Delegation to the WFNS has continued to be active in the Society and its educational endeavors. The North American delegation consists of several delegates who serve within the various ad hoc committees in addition to the following named positions:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Nelson Oyesiku</b>
<b>Second Vice-President:</b>	<b>Frederick Boop</b>
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	<b>David Adelson</b>
<b>Coordinator of Committees:</b>	<b>Kenan Arnautovic</b>
<b>Chair, Constitution and Bylaws:</b>	<b>Bernard Bendok</b>
<b>Chair, Publication and Web:</b>	<b>Peter Nakaji</b>
<b>WFNS Journal Editor:</b>	<b>Anil Nanda</b>
<b>Nominating Committee:</b>	<b>Mustafa Buskaya</b> <b>Amir Dehdashti</b>

The North American delegation has continued to work diligently in both the WFNS Federation and the Foundation to further the goals and objectives set forth by the WFNS Executive Committee. Under the leadership of President Oyesiku, our voting delegation has participated in educational initiatives and efforts to generate revenue for both the Federation and Foundation. In leadership positions, our delegates have remained actively engaged with both the AC and the EC. As you know, the leadership of our member societies in North America, as well as several of the Honorary Presidents, have expressed concerns about the structure and governance of the WFNS over the years. These concerns led to a letter of concern from the AANS to then President Yong Kwang Tu in April of 2015 requesting the enforcement of term limits for office holders in both the



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Federation and the Foundation. The AANS expressed concerns about the Honorary President's participation in the Administrative Council, concerns about a lack of transparency in certain fundraising activities and they recommended the enforcement of age limits for leadership positions. It should be noted that our North American partner society, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), subsequently withdrew their membership in the WFNS in 2017, in part because of these same concerns.

The listed concerns were addressed during the presidency of Franco Servadei through many Constitution and Bylaws changes, which were voted into place by over 75% of the WFNS membership. These changes were meant to make the WFNS a more representative and democratic organization and to encourage the involvement of younger neurosurgeons in leadership roles. The implementation of these reforms continued in the current regime, under the leadership of President Nelson Oyesiku. This included making changes in the Committee Chairs in accordance with the term limits written into the Bylaws, closing the Central Office and moving to a virtual WFNS office, given that the costs of maintaining the physical office were threatening the financial viability of our esteemed Society. The current administration has also worked diligently to help the Federation advance its educational mission as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic by supporting both virtual and in-person educational meetings on all continents and within our various neurosurgical subspecialties in record numbers.

Because of persistent challenges within the WFNS related to the democratic principle of a peaceful transition of power and to ongoing professional incivility, a second letter of concern was drafted by the leadership of the AANS and forwarded to President Oyesiku in July 2022. This was followed by two additional letters furthering those concerns in May of 2023.



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The ongoing difficulties in managing the WFNS business in a professional and transparent manner have contributed to the recent withdrawal from membership of the North American Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS), the world's oldest professional neurosurgical organization; furthermore, the SNS felt that its core mission did not involve globalism, but instead was meant to focus on education and training within the United States.

I am optimistic that the incoming leadership of the WFNS will strive to run the WFNS as a democratic organization, both cordially and transparently, maintaining the highest of ethical and professional standards in compliance with our Society's Constitution and Bylaws and with the utmost of professionalism. It is only through engaging our next generation of neurosurgeons in such a fashion that the WFNS can successfully fulfil its vast mission in a sustainable fashion. If we all work together in earnest, we can rejuvenate the Federation and help dispel the current dark clouds. I have no doubt that the AANS, as the North American Continental Society, under the impending presidency of Jacques Morcos, who has demonstrated intense commitment to the WFNS and to globalism for over 2 decades, will work to convince the North American societies which have parted ways with the WFNS, to return to the fold in 2024.

It has been my pleasure to serve our global profession under the past and current WFNS administrations as a representative of the North American Delegation.

Sincerely,

**Frederick A. Boop MD**