

Stereotactic and Functional NEUROSURGERY NEWS



Spring 2011

AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and
American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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In This Issue...

2

SFN Activities at Major
Educational Events

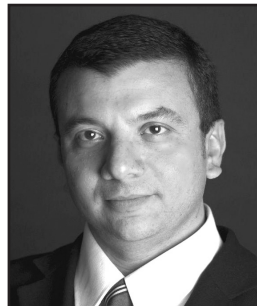
3

Application for
New Membership

4

ASSFN Officers and
Executive Council

ASSFN Poised to Lead



Emad Eskandar, MD

The field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery continues to grow at a rapid pace. Treatments that were once considered novel are now widely accepted. More importantly, many of these changes

in practice are based on prospective, randomized, controlled and double-blinded trials that provide class I data, which is critical for the advancement of the field. There are now at least six such trials demonstrating that deep brain stimulation provides better symptom control in appropriate patients with Parkinson's disease. As we move forward it will be important to demonstrate that these interventions improve patients' quality of life and are cost effective, meaning that patients have fewer comorbidities and disabilities, experience less lost productivity, and require less nursing care.

Our field is well poised to be a leader in these types of studies. Clinical trials involving deep brain stimulation provide the unique advantage of being able to implant all subjects, randomize them to a treatment or a nontreatment arm for the blinded phase of the study, then stimulate all of the subjects in the open label phase of the study. This eliminates the need for a "sham"

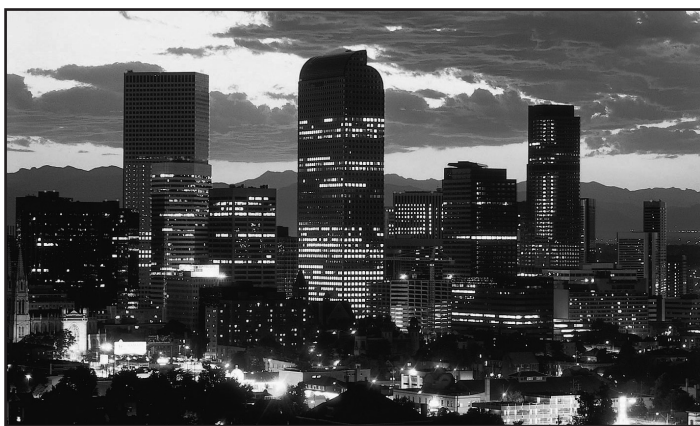
surgical control. It also allows for a more comparable placebo arm since all patients are implanted and receive the same amount of attention and medical care.

A key point in this process is that there is room for scientific debate over different targets, indications and treatment modalities for the ever-expanding list of indications in movement disorders, epilepsy, psychiatric disorders, pain and others. It is only by keeping an open mind and allowing for appropriate scientific studies to be completed that rational recommendations based on class I evidence can be made. The history of this field is replete with very rapid changes in practice that originally were based on limited data and that were then reversed one or two decades later once more data became available. There are many rational targets for different indications, and they should be included in the discussion until they are proven to be effective or ineffective.

On a more practical note, the ASSFN continues to advance the society's mission and its goals by expanding its membership to include neurologists, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, neuroscientists, and engineers. All of us work closely with colleagues in these fields. However, it is chiefly through our personal communication with them that they will become aware of the benefits of ASSFN membership and the great potential for fruitful intellectual debate and scientific collaboration. Therefore, I urge you to approach your colleagues and ask them to join us.

SFN Activities at Major Educational Events

While technology offers an ever-increasing number of opportunities for staying current in our field, one of the most satisfying remains participation in scientific meetings. These meetings represent a golden opportunity to learn in the company of colleagues committed to our subspecialty and to engage in the active exchange of ideas. This year the AANS and CNS hold annual meetings in the spring and fall, respectively, and planning already is under way for the next ASSFN meeting in June 2012.



Denver

AANS Annual Meeting

The 2011 AANS Annual Meeting is taking place April 9–13 in San Francisco, Calif.

On Sunday, there is a practical clinic entitled “Deep Brain Stimulation: Update and New Directions.” The co-directors are Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD, and Stephen B. Tatter, MD, PhD, while the faculty includes Roy A.E. Bakay, MD, Nicholas M. Boulis, MD, Brian H. Kopell, MD, Alon Y. Mogilner, MD, PhD, Joshua M. Rosenow, MD, and Ashwini D. Sharan, MD.

There also is a practical clinic entitled “Brain Mapping and Awake Mapping Techniques.” The co-directors are Gerald A. Grant, MD, and Guy M. McKhann II, MD. The faculty includes Nicholas M. Barbaro, MD, Gene H. Barnett, MD, FACS, Mitchel S. Berger, MD, FACS, Peter M. Black, MD, PhD, Isabelle M. Germano, MD, FACS, Jorge Alvaro Gonzalez Martinez, MD, PhD, and Mark Robert Lee, MD.

Monday afternoon, there is a Stereotactic and Functional Section scientific session titled “Physiological Basis for Movement Disorders Surgery: Latest Concepts.” This session focuses on innovations in the diagnosis, management and treatment of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The moderators are Kim J. Burchiel, MD, FACS, and Ali R. Rezai, MD. Invited speaker Philip A. Starr will discuss “Physiological Basis for Movement Disorders Surgery: Latest Concepts,” followed by an open scientific session and presentation of the best medical student abstract.

On Wednesday afternoon a second Stereotactic and Functional

Section scientific session will take place. This session will begin with a symposium that includes the following talks: “Functional Neuroanatomy of the Movement Disorders” by Tipu Z. Aziz, MD; “Functional Neuroanatomy of the Epilepsies” by Warren W. Boling, MD, FRCSC; and “Functional Neuroanatomy of Psychiatric Disorders” by G. Rees Cosgrove, MD, FRCSC.

This promises to be another great meeting with many exciting presentations. Visit the AANS website, www.aans.org, for additional information.

2010 CNS Annual Meeting Review

The 60th meeting of the CNS took place Oct. 16–21, 2010 in San Francisco, Calif. As usual, this was an outstanding meeting.

There was a neuromodulation symposium on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 17. On Monday afternoon, there was a Stereotactic and Functional Section session with presentation of the top 10 abstracts and the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Resident Award. On Tuesday there was an excellent special course, “Deep Brain Stimulation: Advancing Technology and Expanding Indications,” moderated by Philip A. Starr, MD, and Aviva Abosch, MD. On Wednesday afternoon, the outstanding session “Complication Avoidance in Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery” was moderated by W. Jeffrey Elias, MD, and Brian H. Kopell, MD.

The next meeting of the CNS is scheduled for Oct. 1–6 in Washington, D.C.

ASSFN Meeting in San Francisco, June 2012

The next ASSFN meeting will be held from June 3 to June 6, 2012 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. This promises to be a very exciting meeting given the rapid progress in our field. The program will include didactic courses along with open scientific talks and poster sessions. Moreover, the venue will be beautiful, with a panoramic view of the city and the bay.

Please save the date and plan to submit abstracts. This will be a fantastic scientific meeting and great chance to meet with old friends and make new ones.



San Francisco



American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Application for New Membership

Name _____

Office Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Residency Training Program _____ Years: _____

Medical School _____

Specialty (circle) Neurosurgery Neurology Other: _____

AANS Member Yes No CNS Member Yes No

Interests in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery: (please circle)

- Movement Disorders
- Pain
- Epilepsy
- Psychosurgery
- Biomedical Engineering
- Tumors
- Radiosurgery
- Image Guidance

Determine and circle your membership category:

Category	Yearly Fee	Description
Active	\$325	For practicing neurosurgeons in the United States or Canada who have completed residency/fellowship
Resident/Fellow	\$25	One-time fee (not yearly). For neurosurgical trainees currently in residency or fellowship
Senior	Free	For neurosurgeons who are retired and over 65 years old
Associate	\$50	For non-neurosurgeons

The benefits of Active membership include:

- Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Membership in the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Reduced fees for the biennial ASSFN meetings
- Subscription to the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* (including online access)

The benefits of all other membership categories are:

- Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Reduced fees for the biennial ASSFN meetings
- Eligibility to subscribe to *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* at a reduced rate. If you are joining as a resident/fellow, associate, or senior member and wish to have the journal subscription, the fee is \$135. Please check this box:
 - YES, I would like to receive the society journal at the reduced rate.

There are two ways to become an ASSFN member:

- Apply online at www.MyAANS.org (for Active member applications only)
- Mail this application form to ASSFN
c/o Melody Dian
ASSFN Administrator
419 Oak Street West
Frederic, WI 54837

All applicants will be invoiced through AANS once the application has been approved.

For questions or concerns, contact ASSFN Administrator Melody Dian (mdian@centurytel.net), Secretary-Treasurer Aviva Abosch (aabosch@umn.edu), or Membership Chairman Emad Eskandar (eeskandar@partners.org).

ASSFN–AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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ASSFN Officers and Executive Council

Officers

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Konstantin V. Slavin, MD, Vice-President

Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer

Philip A. Starr, MD, PhD, Past President

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Christopher R. Honey, MD (2008-2012)

Brian H. Kopell, MD (2008-2012)

Alon Y. Mogilner, MD, PhD (2008-2012)

Robert E. Gross, MD, PhD (2010-2014)

Clement Hamani, MD, PhD (2010-2014)

Michael G. Kaplitt, MD, PhD (2010-2014)

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Kendall H. Lee, MD, PhD (2010-2014)

Ashwini D. Sharan, MD (2010-2014)

Historian

Philip L. Goldenberg, MD

AANS Annual Meeting April 9–13 in Denver

