

Recap of the Inaugural Wilkins-Barrick International Outreach Course

Recap submitted by Prof. Dato Jafri Malin Datuk Abdullah & Dr. Regunath Kandasamy. Co-Chairpersons

The Centre for Neuroscience Services & Research (P3 Neuro) Universiti Sains Malaysia was given the honour of hosting the first ever Wilkins-Barrick International Outreach Course in January of this year. This event was the result of an initiative led by Gelareh Zadeh, Co-chair of the SNO International Outreach Committee with the support of Mark Bernstein, the Greg Wilkins-Barrick Chair at the University Health Network, University of Toronto. Matching funds for the support of this course were provided by the SNO Foundation.

The symposium was successfully organized in Le Meridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. A total of 110 participants encompassing neurosurgeons, oncologists, radiologist and residents from all three specialities were in attendance. Faculty members consisted of both regional as well as international experts from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand & Canada.

SNO was represented by Dr. Zadeh who spoke on the latest developments in the management of brain metastases as well as meningiomas. Dr. Bernstein who was also in attendance, shared his vast and invaluable experience in performing awake craniotomies. Local and regional experts shared their perspectives on the management of high and low grade gliomas, skull base tumours, paediatric brain tumours and spinal cord tumours. Oncological advancements in the fields of stereotactic radiosurgery as well as radiation induced complications were reviewed. Updates on developments in genetic assessment and biomarker usage in neuro-oncology were also included.

The expert panel discussion session at the end of the day was well received by the audience who posed many questions particularly pertaining to experiences with multi-disciplinary team based approaches to oncological treatment.

The organizing committee would like to thank the University of Toronto and SNO for this opportunity which has helped serve as a catalyst for the development of neuro-oncology in this region. We would also like to thank members of the neuro-oncology fraternity in Malaysia who supported this event.