Advancing multi-disciplinary research, education, and collaboration to drive discovery and improve patient outcomes

History Committee

Manish Aghi
Manmeet Ahluwalia
Susan Chang
Mark Gilbert
Charles Haynes
Vinay Puduvalli
David Reardon
Erik Sulman
Patrick Wen
Gelareh Zadeh
Commemorating SNO’s 20th Year

Remarkably, 2015 represents the 20th anniversary of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO). We developed this commemorative brochure with three goals. First, we felt it imperative to chronicle the key historical landmarks of SNO as a Society. Second, this brochure celebrates SNO’s noteworthy achievements during its first two decades. Third and most importantly, by reviewing our past, we hope this brochure inspires us about SNO’s future. While remaining true to the vision and efforts of its founders, SNO has risen to a level of participation and activity that no one would have predicted 20 years ago. This path has brought us to a position of unrivaled leadership in neuro-oncology. We are humbled by our past accomplishments, while remaining inspired about our future prospects.

Over the past 20 years, an exceptional amount has been done. We started from humble beginnings that included a core group of forebearers with a vision that multidisciplinary communication and collaboration would advance neuro-oncology research and clinical outcomes for brain cancer patients. Year by year, one annual meeting at a time, effort by effort, the vision of our conception has steadily transformed into the reality of our current position as the premier neuro-oncology organization in the world. Despite significant financial, logistical and political challenges along the way SNO has not only overcome these hurdles, but has continued to flourish. Each annual meeting grows richer and delves deeper and more broadly into our field. Neuro-Oncology is the “spokes-journal” for our field while Neuro-Oncology Practice was successfully launched to address the ever-growing practical issues confronting our field and patients. All of these factors have contributed to the remarkable trajectory of our Society.

We have come a long way, as detailed in this brochure. Analogous to people, in 20 years we as a society have grown from conception to infancy to adolescence and now are in young adulthood. Our identity has matured as has our sense of responsibility and commitment. We hope that this brochure helps each of you take deserved pride in how far our SNO has come and our accomplishments to date. Equally importantly, we hope that this brochure inspires you with a sense of wonder and excitement for the future of SNO over the next 20 years.

During its first 20 years the vibrant, multidisciplinary community that defines the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) has risen to become the global force advancing research and clinical outcome for the field of neuro-oncology.
Articulating a Shared Vision

The care of patients with neurological malignancies in the 1980s was loosely organized among several specialties including neurosurgery, radiation oncology and medical oncology. Despite the dedicated efforts of specialists within each of these fields, it was recognized that the lack of coordinated treatment for the patients led to fragmented care. In addition, the lack of insights into the biology of the neurological malignancies led to widely disparate approaches to therapy and resultant poor outcomes of these patients which in turn generated a sense of nihilism among the physicians treating patients with these tumors.

The late 1980s saw significant advances in the care of many systemic cancers and the advent of multidisciplinary medicine which in turn spurred an effort to bring together the specialties that now define the field of neuro-oncology.

The early efforts to coordinate clinical and research activities in neuro-oncology began in a few major medical centers where multidisciplinary teams could effectively interact to deliver patient care. However, it was clear that the broad implementation of such care across the country and meeting the growing and diverse scientific needs of the emerging scientific community required a national platform that was beyond the scope of these centers. Additionally, existing organizations did not have a dedicated platform for the growing specialty of neuro-oncology.

This need for an organized effort to fill this gap was initially recognized by Victor Levin, MD, then Chair of the Department of Neuro-Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), who articulated a shared vision of an organization that would promote multidisciplinary interactions for the neuro-oncology community. The goal was to create an inclusive entity to provide a balanced representation for all specialties interested in advancing research and treatment of neurological malignancies.

As the first step to formalize this effort, a set of bylaws was developed with the input of Jay Loeffler, a radiation oncologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the assistance of Jan Esenwein and Linda Greer of the Department of Neuro-Oncology at MDACC, that led to the creation of what was initially called The North American Society for Neuro-Oncology. The initial membership commitment for this new entity came from 88 professionals representing varied specialties including neurosurgery, medical oncology, neurology, radiation oncology, neuro-radiology, and basic science from the United States and Canada. On November 3, 1994, these founding members refined the bylaws to fully represent the significance and potential of this entity reached a consensus to name the new organization the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

The leadership of the new society was elected by a nominating committee comprised of Drs. Mitchel Berger, Patricia Duffner, Stuart Grossman, Philip Gutin, Victor Levin, Jay Loeffler, Raymond Sawaya, Clifford Schold, and Nicholas Vick in 1995. Victor Levin was elected the first President, Michael Prados the Vice-President and Stuart Grossman the Secretary-Treasurer. The first Board of Directors included Mitchel Berger, Darell Bigner, Jan Buckner, Peter Burger, J. Gregory Cairncross, Steven Leibel and Roger Packer.

The original mission statement “a multidisciplinary organization for the advancement of neuro-oncology through research and education” was formally declared later in 1995 at an organizational meeting during the 11th International Conference on Brain Tumor Research and Therapy (the “Asilomar” meeting) at the Silverado Resort in Napa, California. In the spirit of inclusiveness of the mission of SNO, representatives of the American Brain Tumor Association, the National Brain Tumor Foundation, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the Preuss Foundation and the Brain Tumor Society, were in attendance at the organizational meeting and collectively pledged to endorse the fledgling Society. From such humble beginnings, the Society demonstrated early promise in realizing its vision with the membership rising to 163 professionals. SNO was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit
Dr. Levin articulated a shared vision of an organization that would promote multidisciplinary interactions and provide balanced representation for all specialties interested in advancing research and treatment of neurological malignancies.
Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) was born out of the need to create a shared vision with a common platform to promote academic, educational and research activities related to neuro-oncology for this multidisciplinary group. The common goal was to improve the care and treatment of patients with brain tumors. Embracing this vision, the Society has successfully become a nexus for interactions among its members with pharmaceutical entities, patient advocacy groups and philanthropic foundations, resulting in an energized and meaningful partnership dedicated to progress in this field.

The specialty of neuro-oncology forms a unique interface between the fields of neurological diseases and cancer and has consequently attracted a multidisciplinary group of talented physicians, basic scientists and other professionals to its fold. This diverse body is comprised of neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists, adult and pediatric neurologists, adult and pediatric medical oncologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, radiation oncologists, rehabilitation and pain management specialists, imaging physicists, laboratory-based scientists involved in cancer biology, molecular biology, radiobiology, epigenetics, pharmacology and genetics, and a cadre of epidemiologists, neuropsychologists, statisticians, allied healthcare providers and clinical and research nurses.

Since its inception in 1999 with annual dues of $150 for a full membership, a benefit of joining SNO has included a subscription to the Society’s journal, Neuro-Oncology. Today this journal is the preeminent publication in the field. Through its special emphasis on providing educational and academic resources to its junior members, the Society has also become a dynamic leader in promoting the careers and knowledge of young scientists who are able to gain access to the expertise of the senior membership, as well as to opportunities arising from periodic and ongoing multidisciplinary activities of the Society. The membership dues have only been raised twice since the inception of the Society and currently the cost of full membership is $275 per year. Membership benefits include twelve monthly issues of Neuro-Oncology, quarterly issues of our new sister title, Neuro-Oncology Practice, a discounted registration rate for the annual SNO Scientific Meeting, regular e-blast notifications, the SNO newsletter and the ability to participate in SNO committees and groups.

There are currently four levels of membership in the Society: Full membership requires a doctorate level degree and a commitment to neuro-oncology related practice or research, Associate memberships are available for those without doctorate-level degrees, Trainee memberships are available to those in scientific or clinical training, and the recently created Emeritus membership category is available to members 65 years of age or older, or by special dispensation of the SNO Membership Committee. This committee is currently led by Manmeet Ahluwalia, with support from SNO’s membership manager, Linda Greer.

The benefits and opportunities provided by joining the Society have resulted in a steady growth of membership over its lifetime, which has provided additional momentum to its growing national and international presence as a premier representative and meeting place for the neuro-oncology community. In addition, the Society has also extended its influence through international partnerships with prestigious organizations including the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology and the European Association of Neuro-Oncology. The current members of SNO include representatives from 48 countries spanning six continents. In particular, its collaboration with the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology has resulted in a combined meeting of the international neuro-oncology community that has provided an unparalleled opportunity, which allows interaction and exchange of ideas among the members worldwide.

With its growing reputation and resources, the Society for Neuro-Oncology continues to provide a unique platform for an international multidisciplinary gathering of professionals involved in the study and management of neurological malignancies. Offering a broad range of educational benefits, membership in the Society represents an exceptional value for neuro-oncology professionals at all career stages, providing a wide range of world-class programs, publications, and services for SNO members in North America and across the globe.
The Leading Publications in the Field
The Society’s Flagship Journal, Neuro-Oncology

With the generous support of a grant from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the first issue of Neuro-Oncology was published in January 1999 by the Camden Jennings Publishing Company with Darell Bigner serving as the first Editor-in-Chief. The journal had an editorial board with international representation of all neuro-oncology disciplines. In its inaugural year, 60 manuscripts were received and 31 were accepted for publication.

Under Dr. Bigner’s outstanding stewardship the journal saw steady growth through its early years. In 2000 the journal was accepted for indexing and in 2003, Duke University Press became the publisher of Neuro-Oncology. During that year, Neuro-Oncology posted its first impact factor of 2.717. This grew to 4.15 by 2006.

In 2006 W. K. Alfred Yung took over as Editor-in-Chief from Dr. Bigner. A new editorial structure for Neuro-Oncology was implemented with the three societies that had adopted it as their official publication: SNO, the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO), and the Japan Society for Neuro-Oncology (JSNO) each providing an executive editor. C. David James represented SNO, Michael Weller represented EANO, and Ryo Nishikawa, JSNO.

Under Dr. Yung’s leadership the journal flourished. In 2008 the journal went from four to six issues per year, and in 2010, became a monthly publication through its new affiliation with Oxford University Press (OUP). The number of submission continued to grow with almost 700 submissions by 2013.

In 2014 Patrick Y. Wen took over as Editor-in-Chief of Neuro-Oncology. Kenneth Aldape became the SNO Executive Editor, Riccardo Soffieti represented EANO, and Ryo Nishikawa remained in his position as Executive Editor from JSNO. To accommodate the growing volume of submissions and the diverse subspecialties in the field a number of associate editors were also appointed. These included Terri Armstrong, Karla Ballman, Antonio Chiocca, Frank Furnari, Monika Hegi, Mark Kieran, Minesh Mehta, Whitney Pope, Hideyuki Saya, David Schiff, and Wolfgang Wick. In addition to more reviews and editorials, the journal began publishing more supplements. These include abstracts from major neuro-oncology meetings, epidemiology of brain tumors from CBTRUS and Alex’s Lemonade Stand, summaries of imaging and clinical outcomes assessment endpoint workshops with the Food and Drug Administration, and specific therapeutic strategies such as targeting EGFR, immunotherapies and intratumoral therapies.

Today, with the tremendous support of managing editor Elizabeth Martinson and Phil Bishop senior publisher from OUP, Neuro-Oncology ranks as the top neuro-oncology journal with a current impact factor of 6.776. With manuscript submissions at 750 per year, and continuing to rise, Neuro-Oncology is well positioned to maintain its position as the leading publication in the field.
Neuro-Oncology Practice

The Society for Neuro-Oncology and Oxford University Press (OUP) launched Neuro-Oncology Practice as a complement to SNO’s flagship journal, Neuro-Oncology, in 2014 with the generous support of the National Brain Tumor Society and the SNO Foundation. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief, Susan Chang, and distinguished co-editors from the various international neuro-oncology societies, Jeffrey Wefel (SNO), Wolfgang Grisold (EANO) and Rakesh Jalali (ASNO) and a multidisciplinary and global team of associate editors and editorial board members, this initiative has been enthusiastically supported.

As the knowledge base regarding the basic science and translational aspect of brain tumors rapidly expands, this journal provides a forum for review and discussion of applying this information to the clinical arena. Exciting initiatives launched through the journal include a series of articles focused on the design, conduct and interpretation of quality of life research (led by Martin Taphoorn and Terri Armstrong), updated multidisciplinary case reviews (led by Derek Johnson), and biostatistics for the practicing clinician (led by Annette Molinaro). These articles are aimed at providing a practical resource for the neuro-oncology community.

The journal has recently been accepted by PubMed Central for automatic deposition of NIH-funded articles, and content will be available through PubMed Central for open-access articles and articles older than 12 months. It is anticipated that full PubMed indexing will occur in the future as well as acceptance into the Thomson-Reuters ISI index.

The success of the journal has been accomplished in partnership with the authors submitting articles to Neuro-Oncology Practice and their trust in this new journal. We are grateful to Oxford University Press, the managing editors Elizabeth Martinson (OUP) and Ilona Garner (University of California, San Francisco) and in particular senior publisher Phil Bishop, for their efforts in producing a high quality journal.
The first SNO Annual Meeting was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1996 and was attended by 215 professionals. A total of 115 abstracts representing unpublished research in the field were presented as short oral or poster presentations, a format that has been maintained to this day.

What started as a small gathering of investigators has grown almost tenfold and is today an assembly of close to 2000 participants from every corner of the globe. The SNO Annual Meeting has arguably become the premiere venue for all activities related to neuro-oncology – an event where scientific results can be shared, new treatment paradigms explored, collaborations established, and friendships formed.

After the initial meeting in Santa Fe, the conference continued to grow. By 1999, at the Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, the number of submitted abstracts had almost doubled, with more than 430 participants, including 43 trainees who received housing stipends made possible by a grant from the American Brain Tumor Association.

The 1999 annual meeting was also notable as the start of the SNO Education Day, which has evolved into an important part of the Annual Meeting, providing a stimulating and interactive forum for updating the membership on the most recent clinical and research information in the field of neuro-oncology. In recent years, the Education Day has also incorporated a concurrent session that focuses on quality of life issues, and professional advancement seminars on grant writing and mentorship.

The Annual Meeting has also provided an opportunity for global exchange. The first meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology (WFNO) was hosted by SNO in 2001, in Washington, DC. Spearheaded by Mitchel Berger, the WFNO initiative was designed to unite the three major neuro-oncology organizations, SNO in North America, the European Association of Neuro-Oncology, (EANO), and the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology, (ASNO). Subsequent quadrennial WFNO meetings have been held in Edinburgh, Scotland (2005), Yokohama, Japan (2009) and San Francisco (2013). The next WFNO meeting will be hosted by EANO and will be held in Zurich in 2017.

In recent years, the SNO Annual Meeting has introduced new and innovative ways to deliver educational content at the meeting including e-posters viewable via kiosks located around the meeting space, discussed oral posters, more educational content during lunch breaks, an event app, a “Best of SNO” session, and the incorporation of discussed rapid reports allowing for an increased number of oral presentations.

The meeting has also led to the development of several other educational offerings organized as pre-conference sessions or as stand-alone events. In addition, the Annual Meeting provides an important nexus for SNO’s non-profit and industry partners to interact and connect with researchers and clinicians from around the world.

The Annual Meeting is an integral function of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and plays a vital role in bridging the gap between neuro-oncology research and clinical practice. Thanks to the commitment and organizational skill of the annual program chairs and co-chairs, the SNO Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day will continue to serve as a the nexus for scientific advancement and progress in the field of neuro-oncology.
With the goal of devoting focused attention to specific topics, the Society has organized additional pre-conference events and stand-alone conferences.

CNS Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Conference

Two-day conference focusing on reducing the barriers in the development of unique drugs for CNS cancers as well as innovative approaches to brain tumor chemotherapy.

Chair: Victor Levin (2014)

Joint Conference on Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS

An initiative of SNO and the Society for CNS Interstitial Delivery of Therapeutics (SCIDOT), featuring presentations from a wide range of investigators and thought-leaders in the various fields that comprise direct delivery of therapeutics to the brain.

SCIDOT Chair: Michael A. Vogelbaum; SNO Chair: Gelareh Zadeh (2015)

Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Research Conference

Supported by a generous grant from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, this meeting offers attendees a state-of-the-art update in the field of pediatric brain tumor research.


Neuro-Oncology Review Course

A comprehensive overview of the treatment of CNS tumors taught by a faculty from some of North America’s top neuro-oncology programs.

Chair: Maciej Mrugala (2014, 2015)

SNO Annual Meeting Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Chair(s)</th>
<th>Abstracts</th>
<th>Registrants</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>Victor Levin</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>215</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA</td>
<td>WK Alfred Yung, Albert Wong</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>301</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>Mitchell Berger</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>373</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Scottsdale, AZ</td>
<td>Susan Chang, C. David James</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>430</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Abhijit Guha, Mihesh Mehta</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>430</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Washington, DC*</td>
<td>Mitchell Berger, Jean-Yves Delatre, Massao Matsutani</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Abhijit Guha, Carey Raffel</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>576</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Keystone, CO</td>
<td>Abhijit Guha, Arie Perry, David Gutmann</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>660</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
<td>WK Alfred Yung, David Gutmann</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>725</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Edinburgh, Scotland*</td>
<td>Carmine Carapella, Robin Grant, Michael Prados, Masao Matsutani, (Program Chairs: Robin Grant, Peter Collins, Stuart Grossman, Jong Hyun Kim)</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>1081</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>WK Alfred Yung, Erwin Van Meir</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1081</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>Russell Pieper, Lois Lampson</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>963</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>Michael Vogelbaum, Patrick Wen</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>1190</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Yokohama, Japan*</td>
<td>Masao Matsutani, Co-Chairs: Susan Chang, Kyung Gi Cho, Michael Weller</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>706</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA**</td>
<td>Frederick Lang, Randy Jensen</td>
<td>599</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Montreal, Canada</td>
<td>Kenneth Aldape, Tracy Batchelor, Howard Colman, Erwin Van Meir</td>
<td>600</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Anaheim, California**</td>
<td>Timothy Cloughesy, Michael Vogelbaum, Education Day Chairs: Eric Chang, Elana Farace, Arjun Sahgal, Jason Sheehan</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Antonio Chiocca, Michael Glantz, Balveen Kaur, Vinay Puduvali</td>
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<td>1541</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>Patrick Wen, Gelareh Zadeh, Education Day Chairs: Terri Armstrong, Louis Burt Nabors, David Schiff, Eudocia Quiant Lee, Alasdair Rooney</td>
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<td>1882</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>Tracy Batchelor, Gelareh Zadeh, Education Day Chairs: Gavin Dunn, Michael Lim, Hideho Okada, Michael Scheurer, Jeffrey Wefel</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>1900***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Society for Neuro-Oncology Meeting **Joint Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors ***Anticipated

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Awards

Victor Levin Award & Lecture
Named after SNO’s founder, Victor Levin, the Victor Levin Award and Lecture honors an individual with a career commitment to neuro-oncology who has demonstrated leadership and, through scientific innovation, has made extraordinary achievements in neuro-oncology research. Open to all SNO members, from all disciplines and in any stage of their professional career.

2015 Mitchel Berger
2014 Michael Prados
2013 Roger Stupp and Monika Hegi
2012 Gregory Cairncross and Robert Jenkins
2011 Kenneth Aldape
2010 Abhijit Guha

Public Service Award
The SNO Public Service Award recognizes a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions to the field of neuro-oncology. The individual shall have advanced the field of neuro-oncology through his/her actions in one or more of the following ways: increased public awareness of brain cancer, advanced advocacy, or otherwise supported the mission of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

2015 Jan Esewein
2014 Denis Strangman
2013 W. K. Alfred Yung
2012 Edward Shaw

Lifetime Achievement Award
The SNO Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions in neuro-oncology over his/her career, either in clinical care and/or translational or basic research. Nominations for the award are received by the SNO Awards Committee who in turn submits a short-list of candidates to the SNO Board of Directors for their consideration. The recipient is presented with a plaque and a $2000 award during the banquet at the SNO Annual Meeting.

2015 W. K. Alfred Yung
2014 Darrel Bigner
2011 Jerome Posner
2010 Peter Burger

2008 Charles Wilson
2007 Ioan and William Shapiro
2002 Victor Levin

Guha Award & Lecture
The Guha Award & Lecture is jointly sponsored by the Section on Tumors and SNO on alternate years. Abhijit Guha was a neurosurgeon who maintained an active research laboratory, and trained numerous post-doctoral fellows, residents, and students in neuro-oncology research. Correspondingly, the Guha Award recognizes an accomplished investigator who is achieved significant results both in the laboratory and the clinic, and in addition has played an active role in the mentorship of the next generation of neuro-oncology professionals.

2015 John Sampson
2014 Kenneth Aldape

2013 Henry Brem
2012 James Rutka

Farber Award and Lecture
Through 2010, the Farber Award was presented at the annual meetings of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors and SNO on alternate years.

2010 Roger Stupp
2009 Peter Dirks
2008 E. Antonio Chiocca
2007 Paul Mischel
2006 Mitchel Berger
2005 James T. Rutka
2004 Eric C. Holland
2003 David N. Louis
2002 Abhijit Guha

2001 Robert Martuza
2000 Stuart Grossman
1999 Edward Oldfield
1998 Mark Israel
1997 Peter Burger
1996 Gregory Cairncross
1995 Philip Gutin
1994 Web Cavenee

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2003 David N. Louis
2002 Abhijit Guha

2001 Robert Martuza
2000 Stuart Grossman
1999 Edward Oldfield
1998 Mark Israel
1997 Peter Burger
1996 Gregory Cairncross
1995 Philip Gutin
1994 Web Cavenee
**Clinical Research**

**2001**
- Guilia Fulci
- Erik Uhlmann

**2002**
- Stacey Ivanuch
- John Suh

**2003**
- Gary Archer, Martin van den Best
- Robert Jenkins

**2004**
- Margaret Wrensch
- Michael Scheurer

**2005**
- James Markert

**2006**
- David Schomas, Justin Smith

**2007**
- Edward Shaw
- Bridget McCarthy

**2008**
- David Gutmann, Young-Goo Han
- Adrian Dubuc

**2009**
- Dominik Sturm, Robert Johnson

**2010**
- Michael Scheurer

**2011**
- Frank Furnari, Pablo Valdés

**2012**
- Olivier Chinot
- Melina Habets

**2013**
- Edward Shaw

**2014**
- Mark Gilbert
- Martin van den Bent

**2015**
- Olivier Chinot
- Robert B. Jenkins

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**Pediatric Epidemiology Research**

**2001**
- Martin Klein
- Elana Farace

**2002**
- Stewart Goldman
- Stephen Rupp

**2003**
- Jing Li

**2004**
- Rakesh Jalali

**2005**
- Karin Gehring

**2006**
- Andrea Pace

**2007**
- M. Law, Christopher Pommers

**2008**
- David Soffer, Mei-Yin Polley

**2009**
- Tracy Batchelor, Mark Gilbert

**2010**
- Kari Nyberg, Andreana Rivarola

**2011**
- Edward Shaw

**2012**
- Mark Gilbert

**2013**
- David Reardon

**2014**
- Susan Chang

**2015**
- Carl Keichmann

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**Pediatric Translational Research**

**2001**
- Terry Armstrong

**2002**
- Rakesh Jalali

**2003**
- Esther Habets

**2004**
- S. Hingston, Rastian Zhao

**2005**
- Deliang Guo

**2006**
- Clark Chen

**2007**
- Kyle Walsh

**2008**
- Andrew Venteicher, Felix Kweiji

**2009**
- Sira Bhat, Frank Furnari

**2010**
- Krishna Bhat, Justin Lathia, Kristine Dziuryzynski

**2011**
- Justin Lathia, Ralf S. Schmid, Michael Weller

**2012**
- Jun Fu

**2013**
- Eskil Eskildsen, Rueland Verbaak

**2014**
- Mark Gilbert, Olivier L. Chinot

**2015**
- Martin van den Bent, Ian Buckner

---

**Adult Translational Research**

**2001**
- Olivier Bogler

**2002**
- David Louis

**2003**
- J. Gregory Cairncross

**2004**
- Abhijit Guha

**2005**
- Eric Holland

**2006**
- Giulia Fulci

**2007**
- Giuseppina Azzolin

**2008**
- Margaret Goldman

**2009**
- Giuseppe Azzolin

**2010**
- John Suh

**2011**
- Martin van den Bent

**2012**
- Robert Jenkins

**2013**
- Kyle Walsh

**2014**
- Michael Scheurer

**2015**
- Michael Scheurer

---

**Young Investigator Award for Basic / Translational Research**

**2001**
- Shih-Shan Lang

**2002**
- Sorana Murriasy

**2003**
- Nadja V. Balota

**2004**
- Jacqueline B. Stone

**2005**
- S. Hingston, Rastian Zhao

**2006**
- Deliang Guo

**2007**
- Clark Chen

**2008**
- Kyle Walsh

**2009**
- Frank Furnari, Pablo Valdés

**2010**
- Olivier Chinot

**2011**
- Colin Watts

**2012**
- Jeanette Eckell-Passow, Priscilla Bratiano

**2013**
- Martin van den Bent

**2014**
- Ian Pollack

**2015**
- Olivier Chinot

---

**Young Investigator Award for Clinical Research**

**2001**
- Michael Prados

**2002**
- Edward Shaw

**2003**
- James Markert

**2004**
- Ronald Warnick

**2005**
- Ian Pollack

**2006**
- Martin van den Bent

**2007**
- vollie L. Chinot

**2008**
- Paul Northcutt, Rastian Zhao

**2009**
- Paul Northcutt, Rastian Zhao

**2010**
- David Reardon

**2011**
- Susan Chang

**2012**
- Paul Northcutt, Rastian Zhao

**2013**
- Haotian Zhao

**2014**
- Haotian Zhao

**2015**
- Haotian Zhao
SNO Presidents

1996 – 1997
Victor Levin

1998 – 1999
Mitchel Berger

2000 – 2001
Stewart Grossman

2002 – 2003
Edward Shaw

2006 – 2007
Abhijit Guha
Mentoring the Next Generation of Neuro-Oncology Professionals

Upon its creation in 1995, the Society for Neuro-Oncology set forth as part of its shared primary vision an education component through which the society early on identified the need for mentorship and guidance of junior members. Because of the relatively specialized and focused nature of the field of neuro-oncology, the organization and its meetings have always had a somewhat more intimate feel than other national oncology meetings. This intimate feel puts a particular emphasis on the organization promoting and emphasizing mentorship as a crucial means of ensuring that the field continues to thrive in the future.

In particular, while larger societies may have prioritized the needs of more senior members and invested more efforts to highlight the successes of these senior members, SNO set out early on to attract a younger membership. The success of SNO in attracting young members is evidenced by the increase in the percentage of members that are trainees in recent years. (See chart to the left.)

As part of its emphasis on younger members and their mentorship, in 2010, SNO created a Young Investigators Committee, whose leadership and members were within six years of completing training. This committee was initially led by Michael Taylor and subsequently by Jason Huse. The SNO Board of Directors has further prioritized its young members by creating a permanent position on the Board for a Young Investigator Representative, which is currently held by Manish Aghi.

The SNO Young Investigators Committee is tasked with the responsibility of advising the Board of Directors on issues pertaining to graduate students, residents, fellows and members within the first five years of their initial clinical or academic appointment. The Young Investigators Committee has promoted SNO mentorship through “speed dating” sessions over cocktails in which young SNO members meet a series of potential mentors throughout the evening, along with sessions devoted to grant writing and important strategies when starting a lab. The goal of these efforts is to ensure that younger members of SNO receive the mentorship and guidance that are vital to ensure that they become future leaders of the field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
<th>Total Trainees</th>
<th>% of Trainees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>244</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies (WFNOS) was established in 2012 with the goal of providing an international platform for education and research in the field of neuro-oncology through inter-organizational collaboration. Susan Chang served as the first chair of the WFNOS and worked with Michael Weller of the European Association of Neuro-Oncology and Charles Haynes of SNO to draft an official Charter for the organization.

The Charter codifies the long-lasting cooperation between SNO, EANO and partner societies in the Asia Pacific region which are united under the umbrella of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO). The WFNOS seeks to promote the development of the field of neuro-oncology by elevating and sustaining the education of all healthcare professionals involved in neuro-oncology, and by encouraging mutual fellowship, goodwill, and scientific collaboration among physicians and scientists actively involved in the field of neuro-oncology worldwide.

ASNO, EANO and SNO are the founding and “Charter Members” of WFNOS. Membership in the WFNOS is open to any national neuro-oncology society, or confederation of neuro-oncology societies, that provide services to registered members with advanced educational degrees, consisting of M.D., D.O., Ph.D., or an internationally recognized equivalent. These members of WFNOS are referred to as “General Members”. It is also anticipated that the newly formed Society for Neuro-Oncology Latin America (SNOLA) will soon join the Federation.

One of the major tasks of WFNOS is the organization and scientific planning of the quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology (WFNO) meeting. It is anticipated that representatives from member states will play an active role in the development and promotion of this meeting in the future. The next WFNO meeting is scheduled to take place May 3–7, 2017, in Zurich, Switzerland and will be hosted by EANO under the leadership of current WFNOS chair Michael Weller.

As more national and regional neuro-oncology societies are established in the coming years, the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies will play an increasingly important role in promoting global cooperation between member states and improving the care of patients with brain tumors worldwide.
International Outreach: Supporting Neuro-Oncology in Developing Regions

The International Outreach Committee of the Society for Neuro-Oncology was established in 2006 as an outgrowth of the visionary leadership of Abhijit Guha, then President of the Society, and his recognition of the increasingly global perspective of the membership of the Society. Volunteer members were recruited to serve on the committee, and eight global developing regions were identified: Central & Southern Africa, China and Associated Countries, Eastern Europe, the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East & North Africa, Central America, South America and Australasia.

Leading the International Outreach Committee after Dr. Guha's untimely death, Jonathan Finlay and Eric Bouffet carried this effort forward through the facilitation of educational opportunities and exchanges, and through the development of collaborations between brain tumor specialists in high income countries and their counterparts in developing countries. Drs. Finlay and Bouffet also organized special educational sessions during the SNO annual meeting in which invited speakers from low-income countries as well as others recognized for their work in neuro-oncology global health, presented on the current status of care of brain tumor patients in their countries and specific strategies to improve such care. These special sessions continue to be a feature of the SNO meeting to this day.

In an initiative launched in 2008, travel scholarships have been provided to physicians and scientists from low income countries allowing promising young professionals from developing regions to attend and participate in the annual SNO meetings. The scholarships are awarded through what has become an increasingly competitive process. To date, close to 100 scholarships have been awarded to physicians from over 30 different countries.

In an exceptionally successful program that leverages the resources of SNO’s publishing partner, Oxford University Press, the Society has been able to significantly extend the global reach of our official journals, Neuro-Oncology and Neuro-Oncology Practice. Both publications are now available at a significant discount, and in some instances at no cost, to educational institutions, libraries and individuals in developing nations around the world.

During the presidency of Frederick Lang, SNO’s outreach efforts continued to grow. With the generous funding from the American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono, a fellowship to support professionals from low income countries to perform clinical, translational or basic research in the field of neuro-oncology in the United States or Canada was established in 2010. As noted in the sidebar, a total of three one-year fellowships were awarded through this program. The beneficiaries of these awards have returned to their home countries where they are able to share the skills and knowledge gained during their time in North America with their local colleagues.

Today, under the leadership of Gelareh Zadeh, the SNO International Outreach Committee continues to address the imbalances and inequalities in the care of patients with brain tumors in low-income regions and countries. The Society was recently able to launch a new award to fund a neuro-oncology symposia in the developing world. This exciting new initiative is supported by Mark Bernstein, the Greg Wilkins-Barrick Chair at the University Health Network, University of Toronto, with additional matching support from the SNO Foundation. The inaugural symposia funded through this initiative will take place in Malaysia and Peru in 2016.

Recognizing the vast disparity in the quality of neuro-oncological care that exists around world, the challenge before SNO’s International Outreach committee is massive in scale. While SNO cannot possibly take on this effort alone, this initiative can be facilitated a few steps at a time through partnerships between low-income and high-income countries, and the extension of our already active educational and outreach activities.
Recipients of the SNO One-Year Educational Fellowship supported by the American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono

Yi Lin (China)
Mentor: Jay-Jiguang Zhu
University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School in Houston

Jun-ping Zhang (China)
Mentor: Patrick Wen
Dana Farber Cancer Center

Rahul Krishnatry (India)
Mentor: Eric Bouffet
Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

To date, the Society has supported the travel of close to 100 young professionals from developing countries to attend the annual SNO meeting, including:

Algeria
Argentina
Bosnia and Herzegovina
China
Columbia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Georgia
Guatemala
India
Indonesia
Kyrgyzstan
Mauritania
Morocco
Mongolia
Namibia
Nepal
Nigeria
Panama
Pakistan
Philippines
Russia
Serbia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Ukraine
Venezuela
Yemen
Strategic Planning:
Propelling the Society Forward with a Focus on Technology

In 2003, under the direction of Edward Shaw, the Society engaged in its first strategic planning process. This initiative led to the creation of the SNO Foundation which was tasked with ensuring the long-term viability of the Society as well as establishing a framework for future growth. A decade later SNO was financially secure and had essentially doubled in size both in terms of active members and attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Given this rapid growth, in 2013 President Kenneth Aldape formed a team to begin the process of building a strategy to prudently manage the Society’s continued expansion. The initial focus of this effort was on managing growth in a way that ensured that the intimacy of earlier SNO events was retained, initiatives for newer members were expanded and opportunities to serve the neuro-oncology community outside of North America were explored.

With the help of a professional facilitator, and with some rotation of participants, the strategic planning process began in February 2013 and has been working on an annual cadence ever since. Each year, the group has analyzed the environment around the Society and, informed by the trends and an assessment of strengths and opportunities, has revisited the SNO mission. The current mission statement is called out on the inside front cover of this book.

The planning group has approached the planning process in two ways. First, through the lens of the SNO member, asking what their primary unmet needs are, and letting those needs inform the strategic plan. Second, from the perspective of the organization as a platform that delivers value to its members through meetings, journals and technology solutions. This view of the “why, who, what, and how” of SNO has been extremely helpful as a means of understanding where the Society needs to focus as it charts a course forward.

It was within this context that recent retreats have focused on identifying emerging technologies that will deliver more educational content and value to members. With the help of an industry expert, the group has explored possibilities where technology could enhance SNO’s mission both at the meeting and between meetings. Ideas have been prioritized based on the impact they could have to SNO’s strategic objectives compared to the cost/effort/risk of developing and implementing them. Collectively, these efforts have resulted in a roadmap of planned technology capabilities for the Society. Members of the planning team are actively sourcing and deploying these solutions over time.

Members who have participated in one or more strategic planning retreats since 2013

Manish Aghi
Kenneth Aldape
Manmeet Ahluwalia
Terri Armstrong
Tracy Batchelor
Nicholas Butowski
Susan Chang
E. Antonio Chiocca
Jan Esenwein
Evanthia Galanis
Mark Gilbert
Charles Haynes
Jason Huse
Russell Pieper
Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa
David Reardon
Erik Sulman
Michael Vogelbaum
Patrick Wen
Dennis Skinner
Facilitator
SNO’s strategic goals, listed below, can be directly impacted through the application of new technology.

1. Attract and retain members from under-represented subspecialties
2. Retain relevance for current membership
3. Retain “intimacy” of earlier SNO meetings
4. Maintain financial sustainability
5. Provide and deliver excellence in the field

Guided by the roadmap developed through the SNO strategic planning process and led by Technology Committee Chair Erik Sulman, the Society is phasing in important new technologies to deliver content and enhance the meeting experience. The leadership has recently introduced a conference app, as well as other meeting enhancements including audience response systems and e-poster kiosks. A “SNO Highlights” session covering the key research from the meeting is being planned and will be delivered through a range of electronic media channels after the 2015 conference.
Building on Solid Foundations — The Next Steps for SNO

The past 20 years have seen the incredible growth of SNO from the early vision of a small group of dedicated members to the vibrant international community of researchers, scientists and clinicians that the Society is today. This growth clearly exceeded the initial expectations of the founding members and uncovered a latent need in the neuro-oncology community for an organization that would foster collaboration and growth, as is evident in the Society.

The growth of the Society in its early years was supported primarily through revenue from membership dues, income from the annual meeting and donations from our industry and foundation partners. The vision for continued growth of the Society to its “next level” required a new means of organizing its fiscal foundations and financial growth. Recognizing this need, in 2003, the Society initiated a strategic planning process under the leadership of Edward Shaw which led to the establishment of the SNO Foundation. This body, tasked with ensuring long-term financial stability for the Society, is currently led by Mark Gilbert and has proven to be a vital component in the Society’s evolution.

Continued growth and development of these programs and the management of the increasingly complex day-to-day operations of the growing organization required a dedicated professional management team. To this end, in January, 2006, Charles Haynes was hired to serve as SNO’s first Executive Director. Haynes’ stewardship has enabled SNO to channel the vision of successive elected SNO leaders, mobilize resources to achieve the goals of the Society and manage its complex growth into the dynamic organization it is today. The growth of SNO and its management was also ably supported by SNO’s long-time matriarch, Jan Esenwein, and also by Linda Greer, Megan Bell and Ginger Vazquez who anchor the day-to-day operations of SNO. The combined strength of professional management and fiscally responsible growth has ensured that SNO remains financially strong with the necessary resources to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The field of neuro-oncology is undergoing major advances driven by new insights into the biology of neurological malignancies, development of novel clinical trial designs and recognition of the importance of patient outcomes. The Society for Neuro-Oncology has been at the forefront of these advances by providing a valuable platform for scientific and community interaction of its members both internally and internationally. As it moves forward into its next chapter enriched by these experiences, SNO remains uniquely positioned to provide its members and the larger neuro-oncology community with a unique platform for connectivity and for launching the next generation of advances in research and clinical care for our patients with neurological malignancies.

SNO Foundation Board
Mark R. Gilbert (Chair)
Mitchel S. Berger
Susan M. Chang
Victor A. Levin

Platinum Level Partners
(All partners since inception of the Foundation in 2003)
American Brain Tumor Association
Bristol Myers Squibb
Celldex
EMD Serono
Genentech
Merck
NeoPharm
Novocure (Optune)
National Brain Tumor Society
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Sontag Foundation