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News from the Society for Neuro-Oncology

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News from the Society for Neuro-Oncology

J Charles Haynes

Society for Neuro-Oncology, Bellaire, TX, USA

The Society for Neuro-Oncology's 16th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day took place November 17–20, 2011, in Anaheim, California. In addition to the scientific and educational sessions, there were several important international committee meetings at which members discussed efforts to increase cooperation between the various national and regional neuro-oncology organizations as well as initiatives to provide outreach to developing regions of the world.

The first of these sessions was the inaugural meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies (WFNOS). This new organization seeks to improve communication between neuro-oncology societies and to coordinate and formalize the planning process for future quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology (WFNO) conferences. The session enjoyed broad international participation, with representatives from North America, Europe, Japan, Korea, Australia, India, and China. As an initial first step, it was agreed that a charter should be drafted to outline the relationship between the organizations as well as to codify a transparent process for selecting the locations for future WFNO meetings. It was generally accepted that the location of WFNO meetings should rotate between North America, Europe, and Asia every 4 years, and that there should be inclusive international representation within the scientific planning committee. The charter is currently being drafted and will be ready for dissemination to the member organizations in early 2012. The next WFNO meeting will take place November 20–24, 2013, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco, California.

With the goal of improving clinical and research activities in the management of children and adults with brain tumours in developing regions of the world, the SNO International Outreach Committee held an informative lunchtime session addressing the global disparities that exist in neuro-oncology care and treatment. Topics discussed included "Care in the Middle East" (Mark Kieran), "Neuro-Oncology in Iraq" (Mustafa Khasraw) and "Teleconferencing in North Africa" (Eric Bouffet). A highlight of the session was the introduction of Dr Jun-Ping Zhang, the recipient of the 2011 SNO International Outreach Fellowship. Through a competitive application process, this fellowship provides a US\$ 50,000 award to an individual from a low-income or developing country to travel to the United States or Canada to study at a leading academic institution. Dr Zhang, a Chinese national, will be mentored by

Dr Patrick Wen at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. Applications for the 2012 International Outreach Fellowship are now being accepted, and members of EANO are encouraged to refer potential applicants to the SNO website

<http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/international-outreach/>

The deadline for applications is February 3, 2012.

Looking ahead, planning is now underway for a special supplemental issue of our official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, that will focus on applied neuro-oncology and the practical aspects of the care and treatment of patients with brain tumours. This exciting new initiative seeks to provide a forum for international collaboration and an opportunity to share experiences across the various societies. The special issue will highlight the importance of evaluating the effects that the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours have on patients and caregivers with respect to clinical factors other than survival, and the critical need to study this systematically through prospective research efforts. Susan Chang will serve as editor-in-chief of the supplement, with the assistance of co-editors from each of the participating societies: Masao Matsutani (ASNO), Riccardo Soffietti (EANO), and Jeffrey Wefel (SNO). The co-editors will be responsible for soliciting the papers from their respective societies, with the goal of having the special issue completed in time for the next SNO meeting scheduled for November 15–18, 2012, at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC.

Finally, in an effort to further promote international education and exchange, SNO and EANO are organizing reciprocal "meet the expert" sessions at their respective meetings in 2012. A competitive application process for travel grants for young investigators will also be initiated in the New Year, and details will be posted shortly on the SNO and EANO websites.

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