News from the Society for Neuro-Oncology

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The Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) is in the final planning stages of the 2014 Annual SNO Meeting (November 13–16, 2014) which will be held at the Loews Hotel in South Beach, Miami, Florida. SNO is grateful to meeting co-chairs Patrick Wen and Gelareh Zadeh for their energy and commitment to make the agenda for the 2014 meeting exceptional. SNO received 885 abstract submissions for this year’s meeting which represents a 30% increase compared to 2012 and is a new record for a non-WFNO year.

The main scientific meeting will build on the traditional SNO format presenting top-scoring abstracts, plenary talks, mini-symposia and early morning meet-the-expert sessions. This year the meeting will also incorporate several important new features, including the addition of a concurrent session each day (for a total of three per day); an increase in the number of sunrise sessions; the introduction of e-posters viewable via kiosks located around the meeting space; more educational content during lunch breaks; and the introduction of discussed rapid reports allowing for an increased number of oral presentations. This year’s Keynote Speaker is Craig Thompson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, who will discuss tumor metabolism.

SNO also recognizes Burt Nabors, David Schiff, and Eudocia Quant Lee for their efforts to organize the 2014 Education Day program entitled “Metastasis to the CNS: Biology and Consequences”. Terri Armstrong and Alasdair Rooney served as co-chairs for the Quality of Life sessions, which this year are more formally integrated into the overall Education Day program.

Members of EANO may also be interested to note that two additional programs will occur immediately prior to the SNO Annual Meeting. The first, developed by Marcej Mrugala, is a half-day “Neuro-Oncology Review Course” which will take place on November 12, 2014. This course is intended as an update on basics related to our field and is ideally suited for those less experienced in neuro-oncology looking for a good overall review.

The second program is a very exciting offering developed by Victor Levin entitled “The CNS Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Conference”. This program will run November 12–13, 2014, and will provide a state-of-the art discussion of drug development for neuro-oncology by bringing together top academia and pharmaceutical researchers focused on drug delivery into the CNS. We hope that both of these programs will be of value to SNO members and members of our sister societies. If successful, they could be repeated and/or expanded in future years. Information on registration for these meetings can be found on the SNO website, www.soc-neuro-onc.org.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, another major focus has been on the journals published in partnership with Oxford University Press. Patrick Wen has succeeded WK Alfred Yung as the Editor-in-Chief of Neuro-Oncology and is working to build on Dr. Yung’s productive tenure. In addition, a new journal, Neuro-Oncology Practice, has been successfully launched thanks in major part to Susan Chang’s leadership and energy. SNO is extremely grateful to the efforts of Drs. Wen and Chang and their respective editorial boards.

Another important effort that is nearing completion is the redevelopment of the SNO website. Erik Sulman, Nicholas Batuski and Chas Haynes are working to create a revised website that will be of significant benefit to our membership. More than simply a redesign, the new website will feature an integrated communications platform that will enable the creation of secure online communities, driving collaboration and engagement across neuro-oncology subspecialties.

Finally, SNO is pleased to announce a new International Symposium Award designed to support a Neuro-Oncology Symposium or Educational Course in the developing world. This initiative is supported by Dr. Mark Bernstein, the Greg Wilkins-Barrick Chair at the University Health Network, University of Toronto, with additional matching support from the SNO Foundation. A $10,000 award will be given based on the budget presented in the proposal. Additional information and application documents have been posted to the SNO website. The deadline for the receipt of applications is November 1, 2014, and awards will be announced at the SNO Meeting in Miami. Members of EANO are asked to kindly share this information with colleagues they may have in developing regions.

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