President’s Message

My Final Message as President

W. Andrew Kofke, MD, MBA, FCCM, FNCS
SNACC President

In this my final President’s column, I will discuss three things:
• Basic Science Meeting at IARS
• WCA
• SNACC Annual Meeting

Basic Neuroscience Meeting at IARS

Some years ago, after fair debate, we changed our name to the Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care. This change in name reflects a mission meant to include all who have an interest in clinical issues in neuroanesthesia and/or neurocritical care and in areas of clinical and basic neuroscience relevant to neuroanesthesia and neurocritical care; that is, to include all anesthesiologists with “Heart in the Brain” syndrome. The Annual Meeting has traditionally endeavored to provide material of interest to clinicians, educators, and researchers. Nonetheless, there seems to be lacking a venue in anesthesiology which focuses on relevant neuroscience research. “Society for Neuroscience” is an option, but is enormous and unfocused with respect to anesthesiology. The ASA meeting is full of distractions. AUA has some desirable elements but it is not focused on neuroscience.

Many older SNACC members may recall the UNRG (Unincorporated Neuroanesthesia Research Group) meetings which were held with no CME and more or less ad hoc with a focus on unfettered discussion of ideas. But the young folks who organized these meetings became not so young with the last meeting in Philadelphia about ten years ago. In that spirit, SNACC will be trialing a small neuroscience research meeting at IARS 2017. It will be non-CME, low or zero cost to attend and with wide open rules of engagement. There may be a focus on a specific area such that a report of the conference might be suitable, all to be worked out. Anyone interested in being involved in this, please contact the chairs of the research and scientific affairs committees, respectively, Bill Armstead (William.armstead@uphs.upenn.edu) and Channannit Paisansathan (oon@uic.edu).

World Congress of Anesthesiologists

SNACC will have a very visible presence at the WCA (which by the time that this is published will have already happened). There will be two SNACC affiliated panels – one on perioperative stroke and the other on endovascular management of ischemic stroke. In addition, there will be numerous talks and panels led by SNACC members. Matthew Chan is the Chair of the WCA neuroscience track. The major elements of the neuroscience track will include (with moderators listed):

• Workshop: Neuromonitoring using Somatosensory and Motor Evoked Potentials – Antoun Koht (United States)
• Workshop: Neuromonitoring Using Auditory Evoked Potentials, Electromyography Transcranial Doppler and Cerebral Oximetry – Antoun Koht (United States)
• Panel: Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery – Kate Leslie (Australia)
• Panel: Postoperative Delirium and Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction (POCD) – Zhongcong Xie (United States)
• Panel: Anaesthetic Effect on the Brain: Electroencephalography (EEG), Consciousness, Delirium, Cognitive Dysfunction – Kristin Engelhard (Germany)
• Panel: Neuromonitoring – How Do I Do It? – Antoun Koht (United States)
• Panel: Training in Neuroanaesthesia (Global Perspectives) – Masahiko Kawaguch (Japan)
• Poster Abstract Session: E-Poster Discussion: Neuroscience – Matthew Chan (Hong Kong), Thomas Lew (Singapore), Kristin Engelhard (Germany), Martin Smith (United Kingdom), Andrew Kofke (United States), Pekka Talke (United States), Mads Rasmussen (Denmark), Piyush Patel (United States), Daqing Ma (United Kingdom), Wen Ouyang (China), Cor Kalkman (Netherlands), Patricia Kan (Hong Kong)
• PBLD 1: Anaesthetic Management of Intracranial Haematoma Evacuation in a Patient with Recent Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) – Lal Dhar Mishra (India)
• PBLD 2: Understanding and Responding to Electroencephalogram (EEG) and Somatosensory Evoked Potential (SSEP) Changes During Carotid Endarterectomy – Adam Rehak (Australia)
• PBLD 3: Acute Ischaemic Stroke What the Anaesthesiologist Needs to Know. Review of Emergency Neurological Life Support (ENLS) Protocols from Neurocritical Care Society – Shaheen Shaikh (United States)
• Panel: Awake Craniotomy for Seizure Surgery and for Tumor Surgery – Hari Dash (India)
• Panel: Anaesthesia for Craniotomy: What Works and What Doesn’t? Pro-Con Debate 1 – Piyush Patel (United States)
• Panel: Anaesthesia for Craniotomy: What Works and What Doesn’t? Pro-Con Debate 2 – Cor Kalkman (Netherlands)
• Panel: Traumatic Brain Injury Management in 2016 and Beyond – Martin Smith (United Kingdom)
• SNACC Panel: Perioperative Stroke – Deepak Sharma (United States)
• SNACC Panel: Endovascular Treatment for Stroke: The Role of the Anaesthesiologist – Matthew Chan (Hong Kong)

The SNACC membership committee will be working on increasing international membership, while also seeking advice from the international neuroanesthesia community as to what would make SNACC a more attractive professional society.

SNACC 44th Annual Meeting

Jeff Pasternak has created an Annual Meeting agenda that is stimulating and relevant to all SNACC members. This includes workshops and panels on the Thursday before, the Thursday evening dinner symposium with lectures, scientific and educational sessions on Friday, a midday concurrent review of neuroanesthesia oriented to trainees and a wine and cheese reception with special interest groups meeting. New this year will be a fundraising dinner for the William L. Young Research Fund which will be held Friday evening in a nearby restaurant. This is a first time trial and space will be limited. Nonetheless, I hope many of you attend.

The topics for the meeting will be:

Thursday
• ENLS (Emergency Neurologic Life Support)
• Basic Science Symposium on Neuroinflammation After TBI
• Hands-On Airway Workshop of the Neuro Airway
• Clinical Science Symposium on TBI Update
• Career Development Workshop on Crafting a Successful Grant Proposal
• Thursday Dinner Symposium: Current Developments in Seizure and Surgery for Seizure

Friday
• Maurice S. Albin, MD Keynote Lecture: Novel Applications for Optical Based Brain Monitoring Technologies
  Clare Elwell, PhD - University College of London
• Anesthetic Neurotoxicity in Kids - Update on the Evidence
• Special Lunch Session - Neuroanesthesiology Topics Review
• Novel Developments in Neuropharmacology
• Clinical Curveballs in Neuroanesthesia
• Two Research Poster Sessions

• Special Interest Groups
• William L. Young Research Fundraising Dinner

Finally, I’ll comment briefly on my year as President of SNACC. It has been a busy time for our expanding involvement and presence in numerous meeting venues (WCA, ASA, ISNACC, IARS, UK Society) and increasing our social media presence. I had some difficulty with the UCNS regarding our fellowship accreditation application and the SNACC leadership will be dealing with the next step for that. And, sadly, SNACC has lost two past presidents this year, both well known to me personally, Peter Jannetta and Maurice Albin. They both had laudable careers with significant dedication to Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care. I greatly appreciate their contributions to our field.

Editor’s Corner

Reza Gorji, MD
SNACC Newsletter Editor

It is with sadness that I found out about the passing of Maurice S. Albin, MD. Dr. Albin was one of the founding fathers of SNACC. Through his contributions to neuroanesthesia, he has been a mentor to so many young medical professionals and anesthesia residents.

Dr. Albin leaves behind his wife of over 70 years and distinguished children in the medicine and law fields. Dr. Albin also leaves behind a great legacy for all of us in medicine. You can read more about Dr. Albin on page four of this newsletter.

Registration is now open for the SNACC Annual Meeting in Chicago! Click here for the SNACC Mobile Meeting Guide. Dr. Jeffrey Pasternak and the Program Planning Committee have worked hard to provide you with a wonderful educational program. At the business luncheon on Friday, Bill Young’s wife Chantal, will present the first William L. Young Neuroscience Research Award. We hope you can join us for this special presentation. See you in Chicago!
In Memoriam – Maurice S. Albin, MD
Pioneer Neuroanesthesiologist Dies at 93
Pioneered Spinal Cord Injury Care

Douglas R. Bacon, MD, MS
Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Maurice Simeon Albin, MD, MSc, a pioneering anesthesiologist who specialized in neuroanesthesia, died July 2, 2016 at age 93 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Albin spent his career in academic medicine, referring to it as “a higher calling, as in the long run, it is all dedicated to the alleviation of suffering through the dissemination of knowledge.” He began his interest in neuroanesthesia as an NIH Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Upon graduation, he accepted a position at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where he began work with the famed neurosurgeon Dr. Robert White. In the 1960s, White and Albin isolated the mammalian brain, created methods of storage, and eventually transplanted brains into other animals. This research included the clinical techniques of vascular isolation, which is a cornerstone of modern cerebral vascular therapy. The work with Dr. White was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in 2004 and 2010, and was featured in Peter Niesewand’s 1982 espionage novel, Fall Back.

In other research, Dr. Albin developed pivotal techniques to study and treat spinal cord injury, including the use of hypothermia for acute spinal cord trauma – work that had a major influence on subsequent approaches to brain injury. His later research led to a greater understanding of spinal cord blood flow, the biomechanics of spinal cord injury, catecholamine release during spinal cord injury, and to improved anesthetic management of patients with these injuries.

Dr. Albin was also known for his work on cerebral blood flow and ischemia, including the study of surgical conditions under which this could occur, patenting a cerebral pressure transduction monitor, and the development with colleagues of a pressure sensitive brain retractor. He was known for his studies addressing venous air embolism – the rare, but potentially devastating occurrence when air is entrained into veins during a surgery. He studied the conditions under which this phenomenon could occur, the best ways to detect air embolism, and developed a multi-orifice central venous catheter to aspirate air.

Dr. Albin was an academic leader and influential teacher. He was a founding member of The Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care (SNACC). The neuroanesthesia community was enhanced by more than 30 fellows in neuroanesthesia trained by Dr. Albin during his academic appointments at Western Reserve, the University of Michigan, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He was the very first recipient of the SNACC Distinguished Service Award in 2001. SNACC also honored him with the annual Maurice Albin Lecture. Outside of his extensive research and clinical practice, Dr. Albin also developed an outreach program in the 1970s to upgrade the knowledge base of neuroanesthesia among Latin American anesthesiologists, resulting in the US-based training of over 30 fellows from different countries.

Dr. Albin’s equivalent passion was history. As a young boy, he toured the Gettysburg battle field with his father, and marched the one thousand yards of Pickett’s charge. Dr. Albin was one of the leading experts on Civil War anesthesia, publishing extensively on this topic. He studied and wrote about the history of air embolism, tracing study of this problem back to pioneering physicians of the early nineteenth century. His collection of nineteenth century medical books was donated to the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology for future generations to enjoy the fruits of his collection. Perhaps the most interesting historical artifact Dr. Albin discovered was a ferrotype of the pioneering anesthetist Crawford Long operating during the Civil War.

Born in New York, NY on March 18, 1923 to immigrant parents Fanny Edelstein Albin and Reuben Albin, he graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, NY. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in
The First Infantry Division, First Medical Battalion. His World War II service included participation in the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge, suffering foot injuries from frostbite which would plague him in later life. At the end of the war, he re-enlisted in the Army and was part of the occupation forces in the American sector of Germany. He later reflected on his military service by “realizing that we must have a feeling of goodness towards all people, and that in underscoring that, a sense of humility is important in dealing with the suffering.”

Returning home after the war, he matriculated at New York University, graduating in 1952. Following graduation from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma di Mexico Medical School in 1958, he completed his internship at the University of Chicago, followed by anesthesiology residency and NIH fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Albin is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Marguerite Eileen Lilly Albin, his children, Roger Lee Albin (Anne B. Young Collegiate Professor of Neurology at the University of Michigan Medical School), Laurel Anne Albin (Director of Bar Success at University of Massachusetts School of Law-Dartmouth), and Ramona Carroll Albin (Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama), six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, named Maurice Simeon Albin in his honor.

The family requests that donations be made in Dr. Albin’s name to one of the following charitable organizations:

The DuPuy Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships to children of soldiers killed in combat or training accidents while serving in a unit attached to the 1st Infantry Division). PO Box 607, Ambler, PA 19002 or The Anesthesiology Fund for Excellence in Education, Attention: UAB Gift Records, Administration Building 1230, 1720 2nd Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0112.

Memories of Maurice Albin from SNACC Members

The first time I met Maurice was during a residency interview at the University of Pittsburgh – too long ago to contemplate. I got dressed in scrubs and was taken into an OR where Maurice was working with Dr. Peter Jannetta (who also recently passed) to sit up a patient for a posterior fossa procedure. He took me aside, showed me everything, talked about air emboli and dopplers, etc. I ended up not attending Pittsburgh, although I think this was the first time I ever considered a life in neuroanesthesiology.

I was at Maurice’ home (back when he was in San Antonio, Texas) and he said “let me show you something.” We went upstairs to his library – which was very extensive – and he pulled down a very old copy of a journal (early 1800’s) and showed me an original copy of the first reported case of a venous air embolism in the sitting position (during a very superficial excision of a small neck mass with the patient sitting in a chair in a doctor’s office). He had a library full of such things.

Another time, many years ago at a SNACC Annual Meeting, I was casually talking with Maurice and just happened to ask him if he’d seen the new movie “Saving Private Ryan.” He got very quiet and then said “no, I don’t need to see it – I was there.” He then told me about being a 20-something-year-old medic landing at one of the Normandy beaches on June 6 (I am not sure, but it may have been Omaha). It was the first I knew of his WWII service and it was a very sobering experience. Years later, he gave me a handwritten “booklet” of stories he’d written about his time in France with the occupation forces in Germany. Things that none of us could imagine were part of his daily life in those days.

Maurice was a walking, talking history of our country and our specialty in the latter half of the 20th century. And one of the warmest, happiest and engaging friends I’ve ever had. What a great life!

Michael M. Todd, MD
University of Minnesota School of Medicine
Minneapolis, Minnesota

I enjoyed watching Dr. Albin at each SNACC Annual Meeting. He would carefully read each abstract, while engaging the many young investigators. His critiques and questions were insightful, yet he always managed to leave each researcher on a positive and encouraging note, with a suggestion for additional study. We will miss him.

Patricia H. Petrozza, MD
Emeritus Professor of Anesthesiology
Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center
Winston Salem, North Carolina

Although I never met Dr. Albin in person, I corresponded with him on numerous occasions. He was always prompt, to the point and direct. He was also kind, compassionate and a true gentleman. His neuroanesthesia book, which I have in my collection, will now have a new meaning.

Reza Gorji, MD
SNACC Editor
Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY
Dr. Solt is Recipient of Best of Neuroscience Award

Chanannait Paisansathan, MD
Chair, SNACC Scientific Affairs Committee

Every year, SNACC sponsors the Best of Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine Award at the IARS Annual Meeting. The winner receives $500, a complimentary one-year membership to SNACC and a complimentary registration to the SNACC Annual Meeting.

The winner of the award this year at the 2016 IARS Annual Meeting in San Francisco was Dr. Ken Solt. His abstract was entitled “Performance of a Touchscreen-based Visual Discrimination Task is Restored with Electrical Stimulation of the Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA) in Rats Sedated with Isoflurane.” The abstract is also the Kosaka Abstract Award Finalist.

Dr. Solt is an associate professor at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. His research focus is on the mechanisms of emergence and cognitive recovery from general anesthesia. He discovered that electrical stimulation of the ventral tegmental area (VTA) restores the conscious behavior in rodents, a process that he termed “reanimation.” Dr. Solt is a superb clinician neuroscientist and a recipient of several grant fundings. He is currently conducting translational research testing the efficacy of methylphenidate (Ritalin), a dopamine reuptake inhibitor, for inducing reanimation and cognitive recovery from general anesthesia in humans. His long-term goal is to target and find a solution for the general anesthesia clinical problems such as post-operative delirium and cognitive dysfunction.

Dr. Solt will present his winning abstract during the business luncheon at the SNACC Annual Meeting on Friday, October 21. Don’t miss this exciting presentation. See you in Chicago!

Dr. Ken Solt (left), recipient of the Best of Neuroscience Award presented by Dr. Chanannait Paisansathan (right).

Register Now for SNACC’s 44th Annual Meeting!

The 44th SNACC Annual Meeting is coming up this fall in beautiful Chicago, Illinois! Join peers, colleagues, educators, and exhibitors for this year’s premier event for the Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care. For more information, to register for the meeting and to make hotel reservation, click on the links below.

Mobile Meeting Guide   Registration Form   Online Registration   Exhibitors   Lodging

Hotel reservations are made through the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) website. This lodging reservations link takes you to the ASA website.
New This Year!
Hands-On Airway Workshop at the 44th Annual Meeting
Earn MOCA 2.0™ Patient Safety Credits!* 

Lauren C. Berkow, MD and Rafi Avitsian, MD
SNACC Hands-On Workshop Director and Co-Director

The SNACC Annual Meeting organizers have added a new workshop to the selection of Thursday afternoon workshops this year. Airway management plays an important role to the neuroanesthesiologist. Many patients require a neurological exam post-intubation, requiring a core knowledge of awake intubation and airway topicalization techniques by the medical team. Other patients present with either suspected or known difficult airways: patients with acromegaly, rheumatoid arthritis, morbid obesity and obstructive sleep apnea among others. In the past several years, there have been updates to the published airway algorithms from both the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Difficult Airway Society and many new airway devices are now available on the market. We believe it is important to receive regular training and updates on this topic and are now offering this workshop to all SNACC meeting attendees.

If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you do not want to miss this new airway workshop, which will address many of the topics listed above, including topicalization of the airway, airway management of the injured cervical spine, and updated airway algorithms. The workshop will consist of several hands-on stations taught by SNACC faculty and airway experts on partial task trainer models, as well as a mini lecture reviewing some of the key issues in neurosurgical patients and recently updated airway algorithms. Hands-on stations will include Supraglottic airway devices, video laryngoscopes, fiberoptic intubation, airway topicalization, and cricothyrotomy.

For more information and to sign up for the Hands-On Airway workshop (offered at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm), visit the SNACC website or the mobile meeting guide. See you in Chicago!

*Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology Program® and MOCA® are registered certification marks of The American Board of Anesthesiology®. This activity contributes to the patient safety CME requirement for Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment of the American Board of Anesthesiology’s (ABA) redesigned Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology Program® (MOCA®), known as MOCA 2.0™. Please consult the ABA website, www.theABA.org, for a list of all MOCA 2.0™ requirements.
Welcome to our New SNACC 2016-2017 Board Members

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Welcome New Members

ACTIVE
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Each member of your group will get 10% off of the membership dues and the practice will get one comprehensive bill. Contact Greg Leasure to sign up!

Do you have membership questions?

Contact Greg Leasure, greg@societyhq.com
Members in the News

Congratulations to SNACC Past President (2011-2012) Ansgar Brambrink MD, PhD, who was recently named Chair of Anesthesiology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) and anesthesiologist-in-chief at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) effective July 1, 2016. Click here to read more regarding Dr. Brambrink.

Michael M. Todd, MD, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Minnesota, will soon be the recipient of the ASA Excellence in Research Award. Dr. Todd’s research spans decades, along with laboratory and clinical investigations. Generations of investigators have benefited from his work as a mentor, colleague and a role model. It is truly an honor to have such an accomplished SNACC member. Dr. Todd has always been recognized as a great educator by all of those who know him. Congratulations Dr. Todd!

SNACC Newsletter Schedule

PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION DATES

Winter Issue
November 15, 2016 - Copy Deadline
Published December 15, 2016

Spring Issue
March 15, 2017 - Copy Deadline
Published April 15, 2017

Summer Issue
May 15, 2017 - Copy Deadline
Published June 15, 2017

Fall and Pre-Meeting Issue
August 15, 2017 - Copy Deadline
Published September 15, 2017

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