

Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology:

October 2000 - Volume 12 - Issue 4 - pp 382-383

Snacc Newsletter

Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care Newsletter

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Message From the Board of SNACC

Jeffrey R. Kirsch, M.D., (President) and the officers of the Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care (SNACC) continue to work hard developing intersociety ties to strengthen relationships with our professional colleagues. Discussion of mutual benefits of these associations are continuing with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Academy of Neurology, Society of Critical Care Medicine, and the American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring (ASNM). Task force work continues, especially in the area of resident and fellow education, updating of the bibliography, relations with industry and further development of the SNACC website.

As the annual meeting approaches, the fruits of the labor of this work will become more evident. Thanks to the Board, and especially Dan Cole, M.D., the fall meeting promises to be an excellent program.

Dinner Symposium Thursday October 12, 2000

As has been the recent tradition, the annual meeting will be preceded by a dinner symposium Thursday night. The symposium is sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from Baxter Pharmaceuticals. The dinner symposium is complementary to SNACC members who register for the Annual Meeting and is available to nonmembers for a small additional registration fee. Pedro Amorin, M.D., (Hospital Geral De Santo Antonio, Porto, Portugal) will be moderating the dinner session devoted to the topic of Inhalational Anesthetics as Neuroprotectants: Theory and Reality. The Society is pleased to have two excellent speakers on this topic: C. Dean Kurth, M.D., (Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, PA) will speak on the question Are Volatile Anesthetics Neuroprotective? and William E. Hoffman, Ph.D., (University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL) will speak on Evaluating Brain Protection During Neurosurgery.

The dinner will be held at the San Francisco Hilton and Towers from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursday, October 12, 2000. Registration for the Symposium is handled on the registration form for the Annual Meeting. SNACC is grateful to Baxter for its support of this activity.

Annual SNACC Meeting, Friday October 13, 2000

The 28th Annual SNACC Meeting will be held in the San Francisco Hilton and Towers on Friday October 13, 2000 before the ASA meeting. Registration materials can be downloaded from the SNACC webpage: (<http://anesthesia.ucsf.edu/newsnacc/Newsletters/May2000.pdf>) or obtained from the SNACC office (SNACC, 1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 100, P.O. Box 11086, Richmond, VA 23230-1086, TEL: 804-673-9037, FAX: 804-282-0090, email: snacc@societyhq.com). The discounts associated with early registration end on September 15, 2000. Nonmembers should note that \$100.00 of the meeting registration fee (and \$25.00 of the optional dinner symposium registration fee) are applicable toward membership should you wish to become a SNACC member. A membership application form is included with the registration materials.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30 AM following registration and continental breakfast at 7:00 AM. The meeting will be an interesting mix of science, controversy, and clinical updates. Consistent with the current efforts of SNACC and the ASNM to develop joint education efforts, Mark H. Zornow, M.D., (University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX) and Mike E. Mahla, M.D., (University of Florida, College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL) will discuss the pro's and con's of the role of the anesthesiologist in neuromonitoring. In particular they will discuss whether the anesthesiologist should play a primary role in neurological monitoring. As you may be aware, the anesthesiologist is well positioned to participate actively in this monitoring to reduce the neurological risk of surgery, however, controversy surrounds whether a neuromonitoring specialist should take the primary role. This should be a lively and interesting discussion.

Following this discussion, Dan Cole, M.D., Scientific Program Chair, (Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA) will present the Young Investigator Award. This award is for research fellows or junior faculty within the first two years of practice. Competition is based on manuscripts accompanying abstracts submitted for the meeting. This year, the winner will be chosen from the six excellent submissions, and the winning abstract will be presented by the recipient following the announcement.

Following this presentation, the first of two poster walk around sessions will be held. SNACC is pleased to announce that 120 abstracts were accepted for presentation at the meeting. The walk around format has become popular and attendees are encouraged to join the discussion groups as moderators facilitate a discussion with the authors about their findings. Shortly after this session, Brenda Fahy, M.D., (University of Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, MD) will moderate the presentation of abstracts that were chosen for oral presentation.

Following the business meeting, SNACC will join the American Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (ASCCA) and the Society of Pediatric Anesthesiologists (SPA) for the featured luncheon program. Louis J. Ignarro, Ph.D., (UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA) will present a talk entitled Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in the Cardiovascular System. As winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for medicine, and discoverer of nitric oxide, his talk promises to be a highlight of the meeting.

Following the luncheon talk, Cor J. Kalkman, M.D., (University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands) will moderate a session on CNS ischemia and injury; David Warner, M.D., (Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC) will update us on activity in clinical trials; Rona G. Gifford, Ph.D., (Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA) will update us on gene therapy; and Christian P. Werner, M.D., (Technische Universitat Munchen, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Munchen, Germany) will discuss anesthetics and cerebral ischemia.

Following a second poster walk around session, Sulpicio G. Soriano, M.D., (Children's Hospital, Boston, MA) will moderate a session on clinical problems in neuroanesthesia; Mary K. Sturaitis, M.D., (Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT) will discuss the unstable C-spine; Kathryn K. Lauer, M.D., (Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI) will discuss visual loss after spine surgery; and Karen B. Domino, M.D., (University of Washington, Seattle, WA) will discuss nerve injuries.

The meeting will end with a wine and cheese reception. Throughout the day there will be ample opportunities to visit the booths of the many manufacturers and corporate sponsors who generously support the meeting.

Breakfast Panel at the ASA Meeting

The ASA breakfast symposium sponsored by SNACC will be held Wednesday morning, October 18, 2000 (registration is handled through the ASA). Barbara Van De Wiele, M.D., (University of California Los Angeles, CA) will moderate an excellent panel, which she has arranged. The panel will discuss Issues in Neuroanesthesia: A Look to the Future.

Panel members include Scott M. Eleff, M.D., (The Chicago Medical School, Chicago, IL) who will discuss Magnetic Resonance Imaging and the Neurosciences-Diagnostic, Experimental and Clinical Applications and Implications. David S. Warner, M.D., (Duke University Medical Center Durham, NC) will discuss Remifentanil and the Neurosurgical Patient. Finally, Adrian Gelb, M.B., Ch.b., (London Health Sciences Center London, Ontario) will discuss Anesthesia for Carotid Endarterectomy: Report From the Front Lines.

The SNACC Board is pleased to present these meeting plans and hopes you will attend. This promises to be a diverse and interesting program that should be of interest to everyone.

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