

Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care Newsletter

1998 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care (SNACC) will be held on Friday, October 16, 1998 at the Omni Rosen Hotel, Orlando, Florida. With the help of the Board of Directors, Program Chair Jeffrey R. Kirsch, M.D. (Johns Hopkins Hospital) has put together an exciting program. We encourage all members to attend the SNACC Annual Meeting.

In keeping with tradition, the meeting will be preceded by a dinner symposium at the Omni Rosen Hotel on Thursday night, October 15, 1998. The President of SNACC, Arthur M. Lam, M.D., F.R.C.P.C. (University of Washington), has planned this event, which will concentrate on the topic "Depth of Anesthesia and Awareness." Dr. Lam will act as moderator during the symposium. There will be three talks given by experts in the field of neurophysiological monitoring. Karen B. Domino, M.D. (University of Washington), will present the current view on the relevant topic: "Awareness in anesthesia—experience with the closed-claim analysis: is monitoring cost-effective today?" Peter S. Sebel, M.D. (Emory University), will analyze the potential of EEG and evoked potentials to assess depth of anesthesia. He will be followed by Marc J. Bloom, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center), who will discuss the bispectral analysis of the EEG as a new electrophysiologic parameter. This symposium has been made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from Aspect Medical Systems. The dinner will be complimentary to all SNACC members.

The meeting begins with the President's Annual Welcome Address. There will then be a presentation from Michael V. Johnson (Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore) on "Mechanisms of brain injury in infants and children: Is brain maturity an important factor in the evolution of injury?" In order to give all attendees more time to view the posters before the formal presentations in the afternoon, there will be a coffee break for poster viewing after Dr. Johnson's address. The second morning session will include the presentation of the New Investigators Award and the reading of oral abstracts. In contrast with previous conferences, the business meeting will be held during lunch.

The afternoon will begin with a session featuring a "pro-and-con" format. The first topic to be discussed is the question of whether or not hypertonic saline is an appropriate treatment modality in neurosurgical patients. The session will be moderated by Donald L. Prough, M.D. (University of Texas Medical Branch), with Christian Spiss, M.D. (University of Vienna), as the "pro" speaker and Marek A. Mirski, M.D. (Queens Medical Center, Honolulu), as the "con" speaker.

The meeting will then continue with the traditional walk around poster presentation. While enjoying dessert, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss research works with their authors.

Following the poster discussion, attendees will be able to update their knowledge regarding some of the most recent neuroprotective pharmacological interventions in the treatment of head injury. R. Michael Poole, M.D. (Parke Davis Pharmaceutical Research), will present the potential mechanisms for neuroprotection and side-effect profile of the novel N-calcium channel blocker ziconotide (SNX 111). This compound is currently being tested in clinical trials for the treatment of head injury.

Finally, part two of the pro-and-con debate will focus on neuromonitoring: Is the cost worth the benefit? This session will be moderated by William Fitch, M.D. (University of Glasgow), with Rene Tempelhoff, M.D. (Washington University School of Medicine), as the "pro" speaker and Gregory J. Crosby, M.D. (Harvard Medical School), as the "con" speaker.

The presentations will be followed by our traditional wine and cheese reception which will give all of us the opportunity to converse, socialize, and attend the election of officers.

In the past, SNACC workshops on neuromonitoring have been very attractive to attending colleagues. Consequently, the workshop set-up for this year's meeting has been extended and refined compared with previous meetings. The program has been organized by Michael E. Mahla, M.D., and there will be a small registration fee for each workshop. The theoretical and practical tutorials will be held in 5 blocks (limited to 20 attendees per workshop) presenting the following monitoring modalities: 1)

Somatosensory and motor evoked potentials; 2) Monitoring of jugular venous oxygen saturation; 3) Transcranial Doppler sonography; 4) cerebral oximetry; and 5) EEG. The Annual Scientific Meeting of SNACC will end with these workshops.

Please mark Friday, October 16, 1998 on your calendar!

SNACC 1998 BREAKFAST PANEL

In addition to our Annual Scientific Meeting, SNACC invites both members and non-members to attend the traditional SNACC breakfast panel, given as part of the ASA meeting. The 1998 SNACC Breakfast Panel was planned and organized by Tod B. Sloan, M.D., Ph.D. This year, attendees will have the opportunity to study and discuss current concepts in the management of intracranial aneurysms. As the moderator of the 1998 SNACC Breakfast Panel, Rosemary Hickey, M.D. (University of Texas Health Sciences Center), will introduce the outline of the clinical challenges associated with this serious disease.

The following topics will be discussed by experts in the area:

Mike M. Todd, M.D. (University of Iowa Hospitals), will speak on the question: "Does brain protection help during surgery?" His talk will include the issues of hypothermia, thiopental, EEG suppression, and so forth.

Tod Sloan, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Texas Health Sciences Center), will continue, with a review of the question: "Is neurophysiological monitoring useful during surgery?" His analysis will cover the issues of EEG monitoring, evoked potentials, TCD and NIRS. The final talk will be given by John A. Ulatowski, M.D., Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins Hospital). He will review current opinions on the

question: "Can vasospasm be effectively treated?" His analysis will include the use of administration of calcium channel antagonists and HHH therapy.

SNACC BIBLIOGRAPHY

The 1998 edition of a bibliography on selected neuroanesthesia topics was coordinated by Dan Cole, M.D. (Loma Linda University). The bibliography is published biennially by the Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care, and the latest issue should be ready for distribution to members this month. By virtue of an educational grant from Pharmacia & Upjohn, the publication and distribution of the bibliography will be at no cost to members of the Society.

The 1998 version will feature new topics, revised sections, and an overall increase in the number of citations. The bibliography will be posted on the Society's website, and most citations will have a direct link to their abstracts at the National Library of Medicine. The Society would like to thank the editors and contributors for their time and effort in producing this timely publication.

Christian Werner, M.D.
Secretary Treasurer to SNACC
*Technische Universität München,
Munich, Germany*

Acknowledgments: The Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care cordially thanks Ohmeda Inc., U.S.A., and Ohmeda GmbH & Co., KG, Germany, for providing unrestricted educational grants on the order of US \$5,000 and DM 10,000 to SNACC. The society will use these funds to further pursue its educational, scientific, and academic mission.