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COUNCIL OF STATE  
NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES



*CSNS Newsletter – Spring 2025*



Clemens Schirmer, MD, PhD, MBA

### Recording Secretary

The 2025 Spring Meeting of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies was held April 24–25 at the Westin Boston Seaport District Hotel, bringing together a robust and engaged delegation from across the country. The meeting continued CSNS's tradition of advancing socioeconomic thought leadership and advocacy within neurosurgery.

Our meeting began with an orientation for new delegates and resident fellows, led by Dr. Deborah Benzil, followed by active committee sessions and a lively plenary session. During Plenary Session I, delegates heard reports from CSNS officers and engaged in resolution testimony on twenty-one proposals covering a wide range of timely and impactful topics.



The Council debated and voted on all 21 resolutions during Plenary Session II on Friday morning. Of the 21 resolutions, 18 were adopted, many with amendments, and three were not adopted. Highlights include:

- Resolution I, honoring the late Dr. Justin Singer, established the “Justin Singer, MD, Memorial Chair of the CSNS Young Neurosurgeons Committee,” reflecting his enduring legacy and influence.
- Resolution II, creating a formal Chair-Elect role for CSNS, was adopted with amendments that addressed organizational continuity and institutional memory.
- Several resolutions focused on healthcare reform and advocacy, including “Fund Patients, Not Systems,” “Take Back Our Hospitals,” and measures to support physician ownership and oppose restrictions on physician-led hospitals.
- Resolutions addressing neurosurgeon well-being and professional development included initiatives on secure messaging, a new forum for hospital-employed neurosurgeons, and a socioeconomic state index tool for career decision-making.

The Council also approved the formation of a CSNS Social Media Committee and developed a dedicated webpage to support military engagement.

Final resolution outcomes and committee assignments are outlined in the EC2 minutes, and action items are already underway across multiple committees including Workforce, Medico-Legal, Patient Safety, NTENS, and Communications.

The meeting also featured CME-accredited abstract presentations that brought critical issues in neurosurgery to the forefront. These included the Resident Salary Project presented by Jian Li and Dr. George Koutsouras, offering insights into the economic pressures facing trainees; an update on adverse event reporting through the MAUDE database by Dr. Laura Stone McGuire; the AI Guideline Initiative led by Dr. Ahmed Mohamed, outlining early frameworks for artificial intelligence integration in neurosurgical practice; and NERVES Survey Results presented by Mr. David Cantrell, which provided real-world benchmarking data on neurosurgical practice management. These sessions enriched the educational value of the meeting and emphasized CSNS’s role as a platform for innovation and academic exchange.



A special moment at the meeting was the presentation of the Lyle A. Leibrock Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Deborah Benzil, recognizing her tireless leadership and enduring contributions to the CSNS and organized neurosurgery.

Committee work continued with high engagement across our standing and representational committees. Notably, the Workforce Committee reported on data collection from past surveys, and the Patient Safety Committee is targeting a white paper release for the Fall 2025 meeting.

As Recording Secretary, I would like to thank all participants, especially our new delegates and residents, for their commitment and contributions. The energy and substance of this meeting continue to reaffirm the CSNS as a central pillar of neurosurgery's advocacy and policy development.

We look forward to reconvening in the Fall with updates on resolution-driven projects, committee initiatives, and continued advancement of our shared mission.



Brian Gantwerker, MD

### Medico-Legal Committee

The Medico-Legal meeting was well-attended with a record 18 participants. We discussed the assigned resolutions at length and debated resolution XX actively. We re-voted on it after much discussion and came out against supporting it. We are looking forward to continued work on the topic of collective bargaining in Neurosurgery and are actively helping champion a resolution regarding the identification and guidance on medical experts in neurosurgery in legal matters. This dovetails nicely with our work on peer-reviewed publications and are actively working on language for a resolution on the criteria and concepts on who and what makes a neurosurgical expert.



Scott Simon, MD



Ann Parr, MD, PhD

### Communication & Education Committee

The CEC is planning a robust socioeconomic program for the coming AANS meeting in Boston. Planned panel discussions include “The Power Of Optum Health,” “Unions in Neurosurgery Education and Practice,” and “Teaching Residents Ethical and Accurate Coding.” We are also planning to hear a keynote address by CSNS Randall Smith Award for Meritorious Service Patrick Wade entitled “Giving Back.”

**Commented [JK1]:** We have a very long/thorough itinerary for the CNS meeting in the Google Doc for CEC update. Are we to include the whole thing? > 3 pages



J. Brett Fleming, MD

### Neurotrauma & Emergency Neurosurgery

The CSNS Neurotrauma and Emergency Neurosurgery (NTENS) committee's purpose is to identify and address socioeconomic and health policy issues related to neurotrauma, emergency neurosurgery, and critical care. This typically involves issues related to regional trauma care coverage, reimbursement issues, trauma workforce issues, dissemination and utilization of advances in treatment, and training program competencies in emergency neurosurgery. The NTENS committee meets semiannually. This committee consists of representation from both academic and private practice physicians, as well as resident physicians.

This year, the NTENS committee held a session on Friday, April 25. The topics discussed related to the resolutions assigned to NTENS. This year we had three new resolutions: tracking transfers for spinal trauma, developing an acute care neurosurgery practice model, and a consensus statement against slap fighting.



NTENS is working year-round to make products that benefit neurosurgery and its patients:

Through the efforts of Laura Ngwenya, MD, and Anthony DiGiorgio, DO, MHS, NTENS recently produced a position statement addressing the increasing amount of e-bike and scooter trauma, which was adopted by the AANS/CNS. Also through the efforts of Dr. DiGiorgio, NTENS presented an abstract on critical care reimbursement for neurosurgeons, and looks forward to publishing it in *Neurosurgery Practices*.

Other projects ongoing for NTENS include looking at the accreditation process for new trauma centers, assessing telehealth across state lines, evaluating the necessity of TBI transfers, and reassessing ICD-10 coding in relation to domestic violence and the potential for missing head trauma.

Prior resolutions that are still being developed include: evaluating informal consultation and clinical advice offered by neurosurgeons (white paper in progress), barriers to global involvement in neurosurgery (white paper in progress), evaluating readiness in trauma among our military residents (white paper in progress), and optimizing treatment for trauma patients with elevated BMI (in process).

The next NTENS meeting is scheduled for this fall in Los Angeles, preceding the CNS annual meeting.



Owoicho Adogwa, MD

### Workforce Committee

The CSNS WFC held a robust and productive meeting during the AANS Annual Meeting in Boston. We had strong representation, with 20 members in attendance, including 6 current fellows. The committee reviewed ongoing initiatives, completed resolutions, and explored innovative solution-focused proposals. Fellow participation is at an all-time high, and their contributions were particularly impressive—offering fresh perspectives and generating several outstanding ideas for future projects and resolutions.



### Young Neurosurgeons Representative Section



Laila Mohammad, MD

The YNRS Committee has launched the 2025–2026 cycle with strong momentum and a renewed focus on engagement, continuity, and innovation. This year’s Fellows Series, now led by Megan Still and Joseph Camarano, is expanding its interactive format and building on last year’s successful additions—such as sessions on neurosurgical entrepreneurship. Monthly virtual meetings will continue on the second Wednesday of each month, providing fellows with exposure to CSNS history, committee work, and leadership opportunities early in their involvement. We extend our sincere thanks to Chesney Oravec and Brandon Lucke-Wold for their excellent leadership and execution of last year’s Fellows Series, which set a strong foundation for the year ahead.

In addition, we’re enhancing fellow engagement and accountability through new initiatives, including a formal sign-out process at the Spring Meeting, a living project tracker for transparency, and ongoing updates to the CSNS Socioeconomic Fellows Handbook. The committee is also collaborating with the SNS to re-survey neurosurgery graduates and gain updated insight into practice trends. As always, our goal is to empower the next generation of neurosurgical leaders with the tools, mentorship, and structure they need to meaningfully contribute to organized neurosurgery.