

NEWS WOMEN IN NEUROSURGERY



President's Message: WINS Celebrates 15 Years

Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) marks its 15th anniversary this year. We have grown in so many ways over the last 15 years, as neurosurgery itself has evolved. Our membership has grown from 12 in 1989 to 174 active members today. Our members practice every discipline of neurosurgery, and hail from North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Our founding members had the vision and courage to form this organization dedicated to inspiring, encouraging, and enabling women neurosurgeons to realize their professional and personal goals. Our mission of neurosurgical quality, continuing education, peer support, and mentorship, has not and will never change.

WINS members continue to serve with dedication in leadership positions in the CNS, AANS, and the CSNS. Congratulations to Dr. Edie Zusman, who has finished an outstanding tenure as CSNS Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to Dr. Deborah Benzil for her dedicated service on the AANS Board, and to Dr. Isabelle Germano, who has been a tireless worker on the AANS Scientific Program Committee for the last 2 years. Thank you to Dr. Cheryl Muszynski for her committed service as CSNS liaison, and Dr. Denise Crute for her work on the CNS Executive Committee and the AANS Young Neurosurgeons' Committee. Dr. Kimberly Page, our next

President-Elect, contributed on the CNS Scientific Program Committee to the outstanding Scientific Program at the upcoming CNS Annual Meeting. Our organization will continue to promote leadership and career development, at every stage of our profession. We support neurosurgical scholarship in training through our Louise Eisenhardt (AANS) and Sherry Apple (CNS) Travel Scholarships. These awards of up to \$1000 are given semiannually at the CNS and AANS meetings to defray travel expenses for the resident submitting the most outstanding abstract accepted at the respective meeting.

WINS members continue to participate broadly and with enthusiasm in the Scientific Programs of both the CNS and AANS meetings, as well as the Section meetings—see the "WINS Highlights at the 2004 CNS Annual Meeting" on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. In keeping with our mission of education, service and quality care for our patients, we are pleased to host Ms. Martha Marsh, President of Stanford Hospital and Medical Center, as our Alexa Canady lecturer at the WINS reception on October 19, 2004 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Although our numbers have increased exponentially, we still have a long way to go. Women represent over 50% of the population,



Holly S. Gilmer-Hill, M.D.
WINS President

but 7% of neurosurgeons. It is encouraging that our society today does recognize the value of a diverse workforce in all fields of medicine, in terms of serving the underserved and understanding various cultures. WINS works to increase female representation in neurosurgery through mentorship. We encourage and support talented women who aspire to neurosurgery, from medical school onwards, no matter what obstacles they face. I and many of my colleagues who benefited from such mentorship continually expose high school and undergraduate students to our profession. Those who will fall in love with neurosurgery, as we did, will not be deterred from realizing their dreams. I am confident that with continued outreach and support, WINS will help the field of neurosurgery attract and retain the best and brightest future leaders. *See you in San Francisco!*

FALL
2004

INSIDE

2
Violence Takes
One of Our Own

3
WINS Orlando
Reception:
Mortenson
Inspires
Attendees

4 - 5
WINS
Highlights
at
2004 CNS
Annual
Meeting

7
WINS
Application

8
Martha H. Marsh
To Address
WINS Reception

WINS MISSION

*To inspire,
encourage,
and enable
women surgeons
to realize their
professional and
personal goals.*

Violence Takes One of Our Own



Robin Lynn Mitchell, M.D. Remembered by Many

The neurosurgery community suffered a sudden, tragic, and senseless loss on August 14, 2004. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) neurosurgery chief resident, Robin Lynn Mitchell, was murdered in her home, the apparent victim of domestic violence. Her body was found after her husband, Robert Howard, a third-year medical student and former Olympic athlete, committed suicide by jumping through a 10th floor medical school building window. Police found Robin while attempting to notify her

husband's next-of-kin. She had apparently died of multiple stab wounds.

Dr. Mitchell will be remembered by many. She was a loving and dedicated daughter, a scholar, an accomplished physician, a military officer, an athlete and an avid sports enthusiast. An intelligent, ambitious and dedicated young woman, she successfully overcame many personal and financial obstacles in order to become a neurosurgeon and was only ten months shy of her goal when her life was unexpectedly taken.

Born Feb. 14, 1973, in New York, N.Y., Robin grew up in Newburgh, N.Y., where she developed into both a spelling bee champion and a diehard New York Yankees fan. As a seventh-grader, she earned a varsity letter as a member of the Newburgh Free Academy varsity track team. She eventually became captain

of the school's track and cross country teams, earning numerous honors. She was valedictorian of Newburgh Free Academy's class of 1990.

Robin attended Harvard University in Cambridge, MA on a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship, graduating in 1994 with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry. Robin lost her father, Wilmot Mitchell, in 1993 while she was an undergraduate. She was accepted at Cornell University Medical College in New York City, again on full scholarship, as part of the Health Professions Scholarship Program with the U.S. Navy, graduating in 1998.

Commissioned a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Dr. Mitchell performed her General Surgery Internship from 1998-99 at Naval Medical Center Sand Diego. She

She had a keen sense of responsibility and of duty, and an intense love of family.

then served as a general medical officer with the 3rd Force Service Support Group, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, from July 1999 to June 2000. She also served with the Combat Service Support Detachment 34 during Exercise "Cobra Gold" in Samsut Song, Thailand, from February to May 2000. During her time on active duty, she received a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, a Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, two National Defense Service medals, a

Please see "Robin Lynn Mitchell," page 6

WINS Membership Continues to Grow

WINS continues to grow. Our membership currently stands at 174, including 64 resident/fellow members. Speaking for all of the officers of WINS, we are thrilled to see the numbers of women entering neurosurgery increasing steadily every year. To the new residents, we welcome all of you into neurosurgical training. We are committed to supporting you through these challenging but

incomparable years. We look forward to your active participation in WINS as neurosurgeons, and to interacting with you as colleagues. To our members, please continue to reach out to your colleagues to join our ranks.

An updated membership roster is available upon request. Please provide me with any address, telephone, or e-mail changes.

WINS remains financially stable, thanks to loyal member and corporate support. If you have not yet sent in your 2004 dues, you may remit them to me (see page 7). Both of our receptions this year have been generously supported by corporate donations. At the upcoming CNS meeting, our reception is being sponsored by Guilford Pharmaceuticals, makers of Gliadel wafers. Thank you Guilford!



*Kimberly Page
M.D., F.A.C.S.
Secretary-Treasurer
2003-2004
President-Elect
2004-2005*

The WINS reception, held in conjunction with the 2004 AANS meeting in Orlando, FL, featured Greg Mortenson, founder of the Bozeman, MT-based Central Asia Institute, as the Ruth Kerr Jacoby lecturer. WINS members, corporate sponsors, and friends from various continents were honored and humbled to learn of Mortenson's work educating girls in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mortenson regaled the audience with stories of mutual admiration and respect between himself and the people he helped. "It takes three cups of tea to do business here (Afghanistan and Pakistan): the first cup—you are a stranger, the second cup—you become a friend, and by the third cup—you become family, but the process takes several

turn, he described people who are determined educate themselves, build their own schools and protect the dreams they share with him. Most of the schools he has established have actually been built with his guidance and financial support by the people whose children benefit from them, insisting that "we can do it better ourselves."

Mortenson's work began 11 years ago, following



Greg Mortenson: Three Cups of Tea

a near-death experience climbing Pakistan's treacherous K2 (the world's second-highest mountain). The residents of a nearby village rescued him and nursed him to recovery. While living among them, he was struck by the lack of

stunning in light of the frequent hostility and violence the residents of these areas face. His students and their families were threatened, and the children returned for classes the next day. His schools have been bombed, and the students continued to study at the sites, using sticks to write in the dirt until they had paper and pens again.

Numerous global studies show that educating girls reduces infant mortality, levels off the population explosion, and dramatically improves the quality of health and life. The audience was moved to hear of infant/maternal mortality rates plummeting from greater than 30% to near 0, after the majority of girls had achieved a 5th grade-level education. "Most important," said Mortenson, "is that

the intrinsic value of education is instilled in her own community when a literate girl becomes a mother." Mortenson presented the concept that in an educated community, there may be few recruits susceptible to fundamentalist, radical ideology and subsequent terrorism.

Greg Mortenson's words moved, awed, and inspired all of us in attendance.

Contributions to his work may be sent to:
 Central Asia Institute
 PO Box 7209
 Bozeman, Montana
 59771 USA
 Tel:(877)585-7841
 Web: www.ikat.org
 Email:cai@ikat.org

Mortenson has devoted his life to establishing education for girls. He has started over 40 schools, which have educated over 10,000 children, with a special emphasis on girls' education.

years," says Mortenson. "In America, we have 30-minute power lunches, two-minute football drills, and shock and awe, which does not work overseas." Due to his years of establishing relationships there, Mortenson is one of the few Americans who is revered and respected by hardened Islamic mullahs, military commanders, tribal chiefs and elders and tens of thousands of villagers. In

educational resources, but also by the children's hunger for learning and their perseverance despite overwhelming obstacles. In areas that were once ruled by the Taliban, Mortenson has devoted his life to establishing education for girls. He has started over 40 schools, which have educated over 10,000 children, with a special emphasis on girls' education. His achievements are

**WINS gratefully acknowledges
 Leica Microsystems'
 generous support of
 Mr. Mortenson's presentation.**



2004 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting October 16 - 21

WINS Highlights

Sunday, October 17

PC11 – Traumatic Adult & Pediatric Brain Injury

Course Directors:

John Ragheb

Raj K. Narayan

Faculty:

M. Ross Bullock

Shelly Timmons

Anthony Marmarou, PhD

William M. Coplin

Lori A. Shutter

P. David Adelson

Jack E. Wilberger, Jr.

Ann-Christine Duhaime

Jack I. Jallo

Alex B. Valadka

Domenic P. Esposito

Geoffrey T. Manley

Franco Servadei

Andres Maas

Learning Objective:

This course focuses on current thinking regarding the non-surgical and surgical treatment of traumatic brain injury in adults and children. The differences between the management of adult and pediatric patients with traumatic brain injury will be emphasized. Upon completion of this course, participants will gain exposure to current management strategies which incorporate appropriate management guidelines.

PC27 – Cranial Endoscopic Procedures in Neurosurgery

Course Directors:

David F. Jimenez

Mark G. Luciano

Paul A. Grabb

Faculty:

Gail Linskey Rosseau

John G. Frazee

Michael R. Gaab

Giuseppe Cinalli

Learning Objective:

Upon completion of this course, through didactic and hands-on instruction, participants will gain exposure to the use of endoscopy for intracranial applications, including management of hydrocephalus, intraventricular tumors, microneurosurgery, and transsphenoidal procedures. Participants will have exposure to the latest endoscopic instrumentation available.



Monday October 18

Luncheon Seminar

M13 – Craniosynostosis

Moderator:

Mark R. Proctor

Faculty:

Anthony Avellino

Joel C. Boaz

Frederick A. Boop

Concezio DiRocco

Ann Marie Flannery

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, participants will understand the craniosynostosis syndromes and discuss the appropriate indications for microsurgical management for each type and comprehend the management of syndromic craniosynostosis. Participants will gain knowledge of new techniques and techniques relevant in the management of craniosynostosis.

Luncheon Seminar

M16 – The Use of Current Guidelines in Neurosurgical Practice

Moderator:

Raj K. Narayan

Faculty:

Stephen J. Haines

Paul G. Matz

David W. Newell

Beverly C. Walters

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, the participants will be familiar with all of the current Guidelines in neurosurgery Practice. The participant will also be aware of how these guidelines are developed and what other guidelines are in preparation.

WINS Reception— Hilton San Francisco Hotel

Tuesday, October 19 • 5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Featuring Martha Marsh

"Building Bridges to the Future"

WINS Highlights

San Francisco

Tuesday, October 19

T28 – Management of Spinal Dysraphism Including Tethered Spinal Cord

Moderator:

Karin M. Muraszko

Faculty:

Thomas G. Luerssen
Timothy B. Mapstone
Dachling Pang
Bradley E. Weprin

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, the participant will be able to discuss the current understanding of fetal myelomeningocele surgery as well as the post natal treatment of the other forms of spinal dysraphism. Participants will understand the pathophysiology of tethered spinal cord and be able to discuss the indications and complications of tethered spinal cord surgery.

T29 – Surgical Treatment of Movement Disorders

Moderator:

Kenneth A. Follett

Faculty:

Isabelle M. Germano
Carlo Efisio Marras
Joshua M. Rosenow
Philip A. Starr

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, participants will be aware of the types of movement disorders amenable to surgical treatment and understand the surgical techniques and outcomes for treating movement disorders.

T30 – Peripheral Nerve Surgery: "Must Knows" for Practicing Neurosurgeons

Moderator:

David G. Kline

Faculty:

Giovanni Gazzeri
Michael Kliot
Rajiv Midha
Lynda Yang

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, participants will understand basic nerve entrapment syndromes and their medical and surgical management and be knowledgeable in the indications and techniques associated with peripheral nerve surgery. Participants will be able to discuss techniques to augment or include peripheral nerve surgery in one's practice.

Wednesday, October 20

W45 – Concepts in Epilepsy Surgery

Moderator:

Dennis D. Spencer

Faculty:

William E. Bingaman
Giorgio Lo Russo
Guy M. McKhann
Edie E. Zusman

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, participants will recognize the clinical features of seizure disorders and be able to discuss various techniques in the preoperative, intra-operative and postoperative management of patients with epilepsy.

W44 – International Luncheon Seminar: International Opportunities in Neurosurgery

Moderator:

Gail Linskey Rosseau

Faculty:

Merwyn Bagan
Frank Culicchia
Robert J. Dempsey
Daniel F. Kelly

Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this seminar, participants will be able to identify the volunteer opportunities available in international neurosurgery, name several sites where such neurosurgical volunteer activity may be carried, summarize the steps required to initiate such a process, and describe the benefits to the volunteer and to the site from such activity.



Robin Lynn Mitchell, M.D.

continued from page 2

Sea Service Deployment ribbon and was awarded a Navy Pistol Ribbon as an expert marksman. She was promoted to Lieutenant Commander, the rank that she held at the time of her death.

In July 2000, she began her neurosurgery residency training as a PGY II – level house officer at Ohio State University Medical Center. Being accepted into neurosurgery residency is difficult enough for those on a standard professional track. Dr. Mitchell was successful in her efforts despite being stationed overseas in Okinawa, managing a full attending physician clinical load for the U.S. Marines, and being on an unconventional career track. She remained at Ohio State through December 2002, transferring to UAMS to complete her residency training in January 2003. She began her Chief Resident year at UAMS July 2004.

Those who knew Robin are deeply saddened by her loss, but we are deeply troubled and angered as well. Dr. Mitchell's untimely murder is a reminder to all of us that, as neurosurgeons, we are not immune or insulated from social injustice and criminal assault. Domestic violence is a major social problem. Head and spine injuries in a domestic setting are obvious signs. As responsible and conscientious physicians, we need to heighten our awareness of the problem in order to identify the earlier and more subtle warning signs and symptoms in our victimized patients.

However, these are not just issues for our patients. Neurosurgeons can be victimized as well. Dr. Mitchell's fate is a reminder to us all. It should serve as a call to action to increase our awareness and attention to this issue as a specialty - at our meetings, through our organizations, through our publications, and through our community programs. Would you be able to recognize the warning signs of domestic violence in your colleagues?

Robin Mitchell was an intelligent, ambitious, dedicated, focused and hard-working young woman. Neither the tragic loss of her father at an early age, nor financial disadvantage could keep her back. She had the independence, courage and self-confidence to identify opportunities and to strike out on her own, without outside assistance, to achieve her goals. Her road was unique. She did not have the benefit of an accepted path to her goals or a predecessor to blaze the trail for her, yet she never despaired or wavered from her vision. She was an inspiration to those who new her, especially young women aspiring to fulfill their own dreams against a financial or social tide. Her path often led to solitary periods, away from the support of family and friends, and far from home. Yet she was not self-centered, or self absorbed. She had a keen sense of responsibility and of duty, and an intense love of family. Since leaving medical school, Robin

had always assisted in supporting her mother. When she moved to Little Rock, AR, one of her first steps was to move her mother into a house next door. Her loss, just shy of joining our ranks as a full member, is a tragedy. We are all diminished.

Robin Mitchell will be missed by her family and friends, her classmates at Harvard and Cornell, as well as her colleagues in the U.S Navy, the U.S. Marines, the Ohio State University Medical Center, and UAMS. It is unfortunate that the rest of our neurosurgical community had not yet had the chance to know and interact with her. She is survived by her mother, Eva Mitchell of Little Rock; her brother, David Mitchell of Brooklyn, Conn.; her sister-in-law, Edilma Mitchell; her grandmother, Evangeline Giusti of Rincon, Puerto Rico; her cousins, Jason Carman of New York, Dr. Elise Carman of West Patterson, N.J., Robin Kelly of Matteson, Ill., Glenn Kelly of New York, Christopher Carman of Long Island, N.Y.; her uncle, Raymond Crespo of New York; her aunts, Cynthia Kelly of New York, Carole Carman of Fort Lee, N.J., Gloria Mitchell of New York, Doris Crespo of New York and Brunilda Crespo, Carmen Garcia and Nelly Rodriguez, all of Rincon, Puerto Rico. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Robin L. Mitchell Memorial Fund at Regions Bank, 4224 W. Markham, Little Rock, 72205.



The Value of a Neurosurgeon

continued from page 8

products to the market, including point-of-service plans, self-funded plans and indemnity plans for out-of-area residents.

At Elliot Hospital in Manchester, New Hampshire, a 300-bed, not-for-profit community hospital, Martha Marsh held the positions of Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 1985 to 1986, as Vice President for Professional Services from 1982 to 1985, and as Director of Planning from 1980 to 1982.

In March of 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Martha Marsh to serve with a select group of national leaders, industry chief executive officers, academicians and government leaders on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council. Ms. Marsh also currently serves as an officer and member of the Board of Directors of the California Healthcare Association; as Chair of the Blue Cross of California Hospital Relations Committee, and as a member of the national Healthcare Research and Development Institute.

Ms. Marsh earned an M.P.H. in health administration and an M.B.A. in accounting at Columbia University. She earned a B.A. in history at University of Rochester. She is married to David Marsh and they have two adult sons.

WINS gratefully acknowledges Guilford Pharmaceuticals' support of this event.

GUILFORD
PHARMACEUTICALS

WINS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please return this form with your updated demographics. Additional contributions are welcome.

Name: _____ Date _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Preferred form of contact: _____

Members Dues Categories:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-year Membership \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Five-year Membership.....\$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ten-year Membership \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership\$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident Membership \$0 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of WINS\$50 |

Members Donor Categories: (For contributions in addition to required dues)

- For Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarship \$ _____
- Other: _____ \$ _____

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Corporation: _____

Contact Person: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Corporate Donor Categories:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Patron \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Benefactor\$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Founding Member\$10,000 | |

Please make check payable to Women in Neurosurgery and remit to:

Kimberly Page, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer WINS
 c/o American Association of Neurological Surgeons
 5550 Meadowbrook Drive
 Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008



American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



AANS/CNS

Women in Neurosurgery
5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008



WOMEN IN NEUROSURGERY 2003-2004 OFFICERS

President

Holly S. Gilmer-Hill, M.D.
h.gilmer-hill@wayne.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Kimberly Page, M.D.
kimberlypage@sbcglobal.net

Past President

Denise Crute, M.D., F.A.C.S.
dcrute@qwest.net

www.neurosurgerywins.org

*WINS Reception—Hilton San Francisco Hotel
Tuesday, October 19, 2004 5:30 pm-7:00 pm*

The Value of a Neurosurgeon

Martha H. Marsh, President and CEO of Stanford Hospital and Clinics



Martha H. Marsh, a nationally recognized leader in healthcare management, will give the Alexa Canady lecture at the WINS Reception held in conjunction with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting in San Francisco. With an established track record in developing and managing hospitals, physician practices and health plans, Ms. Marsh will share her

perspectives on the value of a neurosurgeon to a medical center.

In April of 2002, Ms. Marsh became the President and Chief Executive Officer of Stanford Hospital and Clinics, ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 14 best hospitals in the United States. Stanford's Hospital and its associated clinics are part of the Stanford University Medical Center, known throughout the world for pioneering important medical advances.

Ms. Marsh came to Stanford from the University of California at Davis (UCD), where she served from 1999 to 2002 as the Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital and Clinics at the U.C. Davis

Medical Center and the Chief Operating Officer of the U.C. Davis Health System. In those roles, she was responsible for overall management of the integrated, academic health system, encompassing the hospital, the U.C. Davis School of Medicine and the physician group known as the U.C. Davis Medical Group. She oversaw the U.C. Davis Medical Center's 528-bed, acute-care hospital and all its affiliated outpatient centers, including a primary care network of physician practices in 15 northern California communities.

From 1996 to 1998, Martha Marsh was the Senior Vice president for Professional Services and Managed Care at University of

Pennsylvania Health System, which had over \$2 billion in annual revenues, four owned hospitals and five affiliated hospitals. Ms. Marsh was responsible for managing faculty and physician practices, developing managed care systems, and establishing a network of multi-specialty satellite clinics.

Before joining the University of Pennsylvania in 1994, Martha Marsh was President and Chief Executive Officer of Matthew Thornton Health Plan in Nashua, New Hampshire. During her eight years there, she strengthened the financial performance of the organization and introduced multiple new

Please See "Value of a Neurosurgeon," page 6