

# NEWS WOMEN IN NEUROSURGERY



## President's Message: Role Models Wanted

As I begin my tenure as president of Women in Neurosurgery, I look back on the road that brought me here, the road that started when I began medical school, fulfilling a nearly life-long dream of becoming a physician. From year one, I gravitated towards neurosurgery, in part influenced by the old Ben Casey reruns during the previous summer, a program that I watched religiously. Ben Casey was Chief Resident of Neurosurgery at "County General" from 1961-1966. In retrospect, the program depicted, with a certain degree of accuracy (dramatic license aside), the state of neurosurgery at the time. There was even one episode which featured a female neurosurgery resident. While the subject matter was of interest to me, Ben's intense dedication towards his patients and his craft was equally inspirational.

You may be wondering how a work of fiction could serve as such a potent role model for an impressionable young woman about to embark on the largest life commitment of her relatively short existence. Well, it was only the beginning. From this platform I launched a quest to understand the real-life, modern discipline of neurosurgery and ultimately discovered that there is no other discipline that I would rather pursue. This decision in hand, I survived the rite of passage called residency to emerge as a new member of this elite profession. One

can affirm that the ultimate decision to become a neurosurgeon is often rooted in the notion that there is nothing else that one would rather do. The decision is most certainly not as a result of the consuming life-style and the supreme level of responsibility inherent to the field; it is the daily technical and intellectual challenge, along with making a difference in patients' lives, which drive our desire to continue.

I began my career at an institution with a history of being more "woman-friendly." Prior to me, there were already three women in the program, one to join me in the first year, and one coming up the subsequent year. Currently, our program has three female residents, one recent graduate, and three female attendings. It was clear that I came aboard neurosurgery at a time when others had already paved the way. We were then seeing a "boom" of women interested in the field. However, despite this increase, our numbers are still astonishingly small. Only 5.6% of the neurosurgeons in the United States are women; only 3.4% of Board-certified neurosurgeons are women.

There is really no reason to ask, "Why the disparity?" Neurosurgery as a formal discipline is about a century old; the female growth "boom" only started about 15 years ago. We have a lot of catching up to do. If over 50% of medical school classes are comprised of



Jamie S. Ullman, MD, FACS  
WINS President

women, how can we recruit more of them into the surgical subspecialties? Issues such as prioritizing family/marriage, long working hours, medical liability, and civil litigation act as deterrents. Primary Care and medical specialties are more conducive to leading a more balance life. However, there are many women in neurosurgery who have been able to strike balances allowing them to successfully fulfill their professional and personal goals. The key to recruiting medical students is to show them that women are, indeed, more accepted, more valued, and are able to do the work required of them. They can raise families in addition to participating in a field which has the potential of infinite growth. We need more solid, real-life mentors/role models, willing to usher those who desire into this fascinating discipline.

*continued on page 6*

**Autumn  
2006  
INSIDE**

**2  
WINS  
reception  
"Another  
WINS Member  
Reaches Out"**

**3  
Celia Sandys  
WINS Special  
Lecture**

**4  
WINS  
Highlights  
at 2006  
CNS Annual  
Meeting**

**5  
Meet the  
Officers**

**6  
Sherry Apple  
Scholarship  
Winner**

**WINS  
MISSION**

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



— 2006 ALEXA CANADY LECTURE —

**Another Day, Another WINS Member Reaches Out:  
Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims**

**Gabrielle F. Morris, MD**

**WINS Reception, Tuesday, October 10, 2006**

*The scenario:* Patients, patients, and more patients. Working only a little over sixteen hours a day, every day, without fail, through most of September. No time for family friends or self.... On the surface, this is just another day in the life of a WINS member—or is it?

*The patients:* Grateful and kind with absolutely no managed care or pre-authorizations. In fact, donated medications and supplies are available to be used freely, based only upon physicians' judgment of their patients' needs.

*The administration:* sleeves rolled up, actually helping to take care of people and bypassing irrelevant bureaucratic rules... No, this cannot be just a routine day in the life of a WINS member. This cannot even be reality.

*The financial compensation:* zero dollars

*The pitfalls:* A complete inability to schedule OR time, or use any OR for that matter; unavailability or delay in finding specialists; lack of adequate equipment; questionable sterility; evaluating and treating patients with no neurosurgical problems... Oh, now we have a situation WINS members face daily.

*Opportunity of a lifetime to make a difference:* Priceless!

September 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, while the media

bashed, and organized medicine focused on New Orleans, one WINS member chose a different path to contribute. Her experience volunteering encompassed all of the above scenarios and then some.

Dr. Gabrielle F. Morris, a WINS member since 1993, is a Board-certified neurosurgeon currently serving as a *locum tenens* in California. As with all WINS members, "find a way, or make a way" is simply everyday life. When she learned of the persistent difficulties and suffering that occurred days after the hurricane, like all of our members, she immediately wanted to contribute. First, she tried to work with the existing volunteer structures to provide help. Then, she tried the telephone and the internet to offer her free services, all to no avail. Taking matters into her own hands, she bought a camper, packed up her two dogs, ten copies of her Mississippi medical license, and off she went to help wherever she could find a need.

As the 2006 Alexa Canady Lecturer at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting, Dr. Morris will share her experiences, pictures, and stories, all gleaned from spending nearly a month living in the midst of Hurricane Katrina victims. She will take us from the free clinics and

emergency rooms one-hundred percent staffed by out-of-state volunteer physicians, with donated supplies and medications, to the door to door vaccination program, providing medical care and manual labor. She will discuss the Red Cross Shelters, physical

property devastation, the reconstruction, the hope, and most of all, the people who made this an incredibly gratifying experience.

How MUCH greatness came out of tragedy! How much gratitude! Yes, this is what Americans are about--helping and helping!

**2006 ALEXA CANADY LECTURE**



- WINS Reception
- CNS Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
- Sheraton Towers, Erie Room
- Tuesday, October 10, 2006
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WINS is proud to announce the speaker for the Alexa Canady Lecture this year at the CNS Annual meeting's WINS Reception:

**Gabrielle Morris, MD**

*Another Day, Another WINS Member Reaches Out*

To commemorate the first anniversary, Dr. Morris will discuss her efforts in providing medical assistance during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in September 2005. Please join us for this exciting lecture!

WINS is grateful to Integra Foundation for its generous support of the CNS 2006 WINS Reception.



## Celia Sandys: Churchill's Granddaughter on Inspiring Leadership



Gail Rosseau, MD  
WINS Board of Directors

WINS is delighted to be sponsoring a special lecture on leadership during the upcoming CNS Annual Meeting in Chicago. On Thursday, October 12, 2006, from 10:00 to 10:20 a.m., the WINS special lecture will feature Celia Sandys on "The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill: As Relevant Today as in World War II."

Ms. Sandys is an internationally acclaimed lecturer and author, who is an expert on the life of her grandfather, Sir Winston Churchill. She was 21 years old when he died in 1965 and spent many holidays with him as a child. She was his preferred traveling companion on a number of later international journeys. As a result, she met many of the world leaders who played a role in his long and fascinating life.

In the past ten years, Ms. Sandys has contributed greatly to further knowledge and understanding of Churchill by researching the private family archives and retracing the steps of her famous grandfather. She has written a number of books which include: *From Winston with Love and Kisses*, which established her as

an authority on his early life, *Churchill Wanted Dead or Alive* on his daring escape during the Boer War in *Chasing Churchill*, which describes traveling the world with this most delightful traveling companion.

Celia Sandys speaks frequently on television in her capacity as an expert on political leadership and has contributed to various newspapers on this subject. Her most recent book, *We Shall not Fail: The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill*, provides insightful anecdotes and experiences from Churchill's own leadership style to guide leaders of today. She is the founder of Churchill Leadership, a training development program for all aspiring leaders.



Celia Sandys

## M. Kathryn Hammock, Former WINS Member, Dies

Mary Kathryn Hammock, MD, JD, 68, died on June 7, 2006 in Virginia. She was involved in a head-on collision with a truck while driving on Route 15 in Loudoun County, according to an article in Leesburg2day.com. She was pronounced at Inova Loudoun Hospital.

Not much information is available about Dr. Hammock. She recently served as advisor to the law firm, Nash and Associates, in the Baltimore, Maryland area, a firm specializing in medical malpractice defense. According to their website, Dr. Hammock was educated at Northwestern University Medical School; New York Hospital; Cornell Medical Center; George Washington Medical Center,

DC; and the George Mason University School of Law in Virginia. She was certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons in 1978. A representative of Nash and Associates said that her father was also an attorney. A tree will be planted on the office grounds in her memory.

Dr. Hammock lived on a farm in Virginia with a passion for animals. According to a colleague at Nash who attended her memorial service, she had a "zeal for life." She was valedictorian of her high school class and homecoming queen both in high school and college at the University of Miami.

Individuals, mostly patients, have paid tribute to Dr. Hammock on the Leesburg2day.com site. A friend wrote, "The world

has lost someone who made an incredible difference in peoples lives including mine. Missing her is beyond comprehension. But knowing her enriched my life everyday." A former patient also wrote, "Dr. Hammock was a very compassionate doctor who put her life into her work and was loved by all she served."

A moving testimonial came from the mother of a boy from whom Dr. Hammock had removed a brain tumor at eight months of age with multiple subsequent shunt procedures. He recently finished college. "She was also our very good friend that we could call 24/7 and we knew she would always be there for us not only for her expertise as a doctor, but a caring, loving, kind friend that gave us hope



Photo courtesy of Nash and Associates

and life to our loving son."

Dr. Hammock was named one of the District of Columbia area's Top Doctors in the 2005 issue of *Washingtonian* magazine, according to the George Washington University Medical Center web site.



## 2006 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting: "Transcendent Leadership" October 7-12 • Chicago, Illinois **WINS Highlights**

### Saturday, October 7

#### Practical Course

##### PC01—CPT Coding: What's New

Course Director ..... Gregory J. Przbylski  
Faculty ..... Robert R. Johnson, William Mitchell,  
John Allen Wilson, Jr., **Mina Foroohar**,  
Alexander Mason

### Sunday, October 8

#### Practical Courses

##### PC10—Neurosurgical Practice Development, Negotiation, and Professional Liability: What the Neurosurgeon Needs to Know

Course Directors.....Michael P. Steinmetz, William E. Bingaman, Alan Scarrow  
Faculty ..... Victoria Vance, JD, James R. Bean, Fernando Diaz, **Deborah Benzil**, Mark E. Linskey, **Edie E. Zusman**, Ralph G. Dacey, Katie O. Orrico, JD, Alexander Mason, Mick J. Perez-Cruet, Robert E. Harbaugh, Robert D. Gillen, JD

##### PC14—Traumatic Brain Injury

Course Directors..... Raj K. Narayan, Geoffrey T. Manley, Lori Anne Shutter  
Faculty: ..... **Shelly D. Timmons**, Dominic P. Esposito, Guy Rosenthal, Michael G. Fehlings, David Okonkwo, Anthony Marmarou, PhD, William M. Coplin



### Monday, October 9

#### LUNCHEON SEMINAR

##### M06—State of the Art Management of Brain Metastases

Moderator..... Raymond Sawaya  
Faculty ..... **Linda M. Liau**, Bruce Pollock, Gabriele Schackert, Michael A. Vogelbaum

### Tuesday, October 10

#### General Scientific Session II

8:24-8:35 ..... The CNS Fellowship Presentation  
**Linda M. Liau**

#### LUNCHEON SEMINARS

##### T22 — Treatment of Peripheral Nerve Entrapment

Moderator..... Michael Kliot  
Faculty ..... Hans Peter Rochter, Robert J. Spinner, Robert L. Tiel, **Lynda Jun-San Yang**

##### T23 — Radiosurgery: What the Literature Supports

Moderator..... Bruce E. Pollock  
Faculty ..... John Adler, L. Dade Lunsford, **Gail Rosseau**

##### T34 — Pediatric Brain Tumors

Moderator..... Mark M. Souweidane  
Faculty ..... **Liliana Goumnerova**, Robert F. Keating, Ian F. Pollack

##### T35 — International Luncheon Seminar: Meningiomas—An International Perspective on Management of the World's Most Difficult Tumors

Moderator..... **Gail Rosseau**  
Faculty ..... Miguel Arraez, Kazadi KN Kalangu, Takeshi Kawase, Michael William McDermott, Basant Kumar Misra, Madjud Samii, Charles Teo

#### Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care I

4:00-5:30PM  
Moderators..... Geoffrey T. Manley, **Jamie Sue Ullman**

#### Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery I

4:00-5:30 PM  
Moderator..... **Sarah J. Gaskill**  
4:00-4:20 ..... Highlights of Congenital Neurosurgical Problems: Diverting Disaster in Adulthood  
**Sarah J. Gaskill**

### Wednesday, October 11

#### Luncheon Seminar

##### W45—Controversies in the Management of Chiari I Malformations

Moderator..... **Karin M. Muraszko**  
Faculty ..... Ulrich Batzdorf, John D. Deiss, Thomas H. Milhorat, W. J. Oakes

## MEET THE OFFICERS 2006-2007

### *Jamie S. Ullman, MD: President*

Jamie S. Ullman attended medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In 1996, she completed her Neurosurgery Residency at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. During her last year of training, she performed research at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Hospital and completed a neurosurgical critical care fellowship at Mount Sinai. Currently, Dr. Ullman is an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is the Director of Neurosurgery at Elmhurst Hospital Center, a Level I trauma center and primary Mount Sinai affiliate. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care and also serves on the New York State Department of Health Trauma Advisory Committee.



**Jamie S. Ullman, MD:  
President**

### *Susan C. Pannullo, MD: President-Elect*

Susan C. Pannullo first completed a Neurology residency at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center and was subsequently an American Cancer Society fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Susan then attended residency in Neurosurgery at Cornell, becoming the program's first woman graduate. As a founder and leader of the New York Brain Tumor Project, she oversees numerous clinical trials. Susan has also created the Hope Brain Tumor Center, a global brain tumor information service. In recognition for her research, she was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Brain Tumor Society. Susan is currently an Assistant Professor and Director of Neuro-Oncology in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Weill Medical College at Cornell University.

**Susan C.  
Pannullo, MD:  
President-Elect**



### *Lauren F. Schwartz, MD: Secretary/Treasurer*

Lauren Schwartz attended medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia and completed neurosurgical training at The Cleveland Clinic and Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. She has fellowship training in cerebrovascular surgery from the University of Texas and pediatric neurosurgery under the late Fred Epstein at the Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery in New York City. She currently is appointed as an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Bay State Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, where she continues to focus her practice in cerebrovascular surgery and tumor. Dr. Schwartz has been a member of WINS since 1993.

**Lauren F.  
Schwartz, MD:  
Secretary/Treasurer**



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### *AANS Administration*

Chris Philips, Ron Engelbreit, Sandy Meyer

**SNEAK  
PREVIEW!  
AANS ANNUAL  
MEETING**



**Washington D.C.  
Tuesday April 17, 2007  
WINS Reception  
Judy Rosman will speak on:**

**Strategies for  
Finding the  
Right Practice  
Opportunity**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



## The 2006 Sherry Apple Resident Travel Scholarship



Simona Velicu, MD

WINS is proud to announce this year's recipient of the Sherry Apple Scholarship:

**SIMONA VELICU, MD**

*Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine*

*First-year Neurosurgery Resident*

*Gene Therapy of Malignant Glioma Using a Novel Lipopolymer, PEG-PEI-CHOL (PPC) Engineered to Secrete IL-12 Prolongs the Survival of Mice with Experimental Brain Tumors*

This award will be presented at the WINS reception during the CNS Annual Meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 2006, Chicago, Illinois.

The Sherry Apple Resident Travel Scholarship was named in memory of our dear colleague and WINS President who, sadly, died in 2001. It is granted yearly to an outstanding female resident abstract accepted to the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting. A \$1000 stipend is given to cover travel expenses.

WINS would like to thank the Integra Foundation for its generous support of resident education and research through the Sherry Apple Scholarship.



Sherry Apple



## Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarship

The 2006 Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarship was awarded at the WINS Reception during the AANS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, in April. The recipient was **Aymara Triana, MD**, a research fellow in the Department of Neurology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Her research was entitled, "In Vitro and In Vivo Model for the Study of Clival Cordomas."



The Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarship is granted yearly to an outstanding female resident abstract accepted to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting. A \$1000 stipend is given to cover travel expenses. Louise Eisenhardt was the first and only female President of the AANS.

This year's Louise Eisenhardt Scholarship was made possible by a grant from MGI Pharma.



Louise Eisenhardt

For both Sherry Apple and Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarships, all interested residents may submit their abstracts through the CNS and AANS Abstract Center, respectively, prior to the deadlines, and select the above scholarships from the menu. In addition, abstracts may be submitted directly to WINS by email or fax to:

Jamie S. Ullman, MD, FACS  
 Elmhurst Hospital Center, Department of Neurosurgery  
 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
 718-334-2772 • 718-334-2765 (Fax)  
 email: ullmanj@nychhc.org or jamie.ullman@mountsinai.org

## President's Message

*continued from page 1*

No one ever said that striking the balance in such a time-demanding and responsibility-evoking field would be easy. Decision making is often not straight-forward. We have no crystal ball to predict some of the significant and potentially devastating complications of our actions, and we cannot always rely on ourselves to make the best possible decisions at every possible moment. We are often the intellectual and technical "athletes" who daily "ski" down black diamond slopes. If we fall, our emotions become injured, albeit no less painful than the physical ones.

In my earlier years of academic practice, members of Women in Neurosurgery leadership helped to place me on the scientific program of the annual meetings. It was then that I realized the true need for this advocacy group and desired

to become more involved. Women do constitute a minority of neurosurgeons, and the founders of WINS realized that, through unity, they can help other women work towards achieving leadership positions on a local and national level. As with any organization, we are looking to evolve even further. We will be calling upon our members to help us. Most importantly, we need mentors—women who will be able to encourage other women to explore and maintain interest in neurosurgery. Also, a "member needs" survey will be circulated in the coming months.

From fanciful exposure to an old television program to the reality of being able to make a difference, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Louise Eisenhardt Resident Travel Scholarship | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sherry Apple Resident Travel Scholarship          | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                      | \$ _____ |

*Please make check payable and remit to:*

Women in Neurosurgery  
c/o AANS  
5550 Meadowbrook Drive  
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008-3852

For membership inquiries, please call 888-566-2267 (AANS)



Women in Neurosurgery  
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2006-2007  
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[www.neurosurgerywins.org](http://www.neurosurgerywins.org)



**Mark Your Calendars! WINS Sponsored Lecture at CNS**

**CELIA SANDYS**

— WINS Special Lecture —

*The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill:  
As Relevant Today as in World War II*

**When:** Thursday, October 12, 2006, 10:00-10:20 AM, CNS Annual Meeting Plenary Session

**Where:** Sheraton Towers, Headquarters Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

**What:** Celia Sandys, noted historian and granddaughter of Winston Churchill, will describe the qualities that made Churchill one of the greatest leaders of the 20th Century. His legacy remains an inspiration for our times as well.

**PLEASE DO NOT MISS THIS VALUABLE LECTURE!**

*WINS gratefully acknowledges the support of the following contributors for this exciting event:*



**Karin Muraszko, MD**  
PDL BioPharma  
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