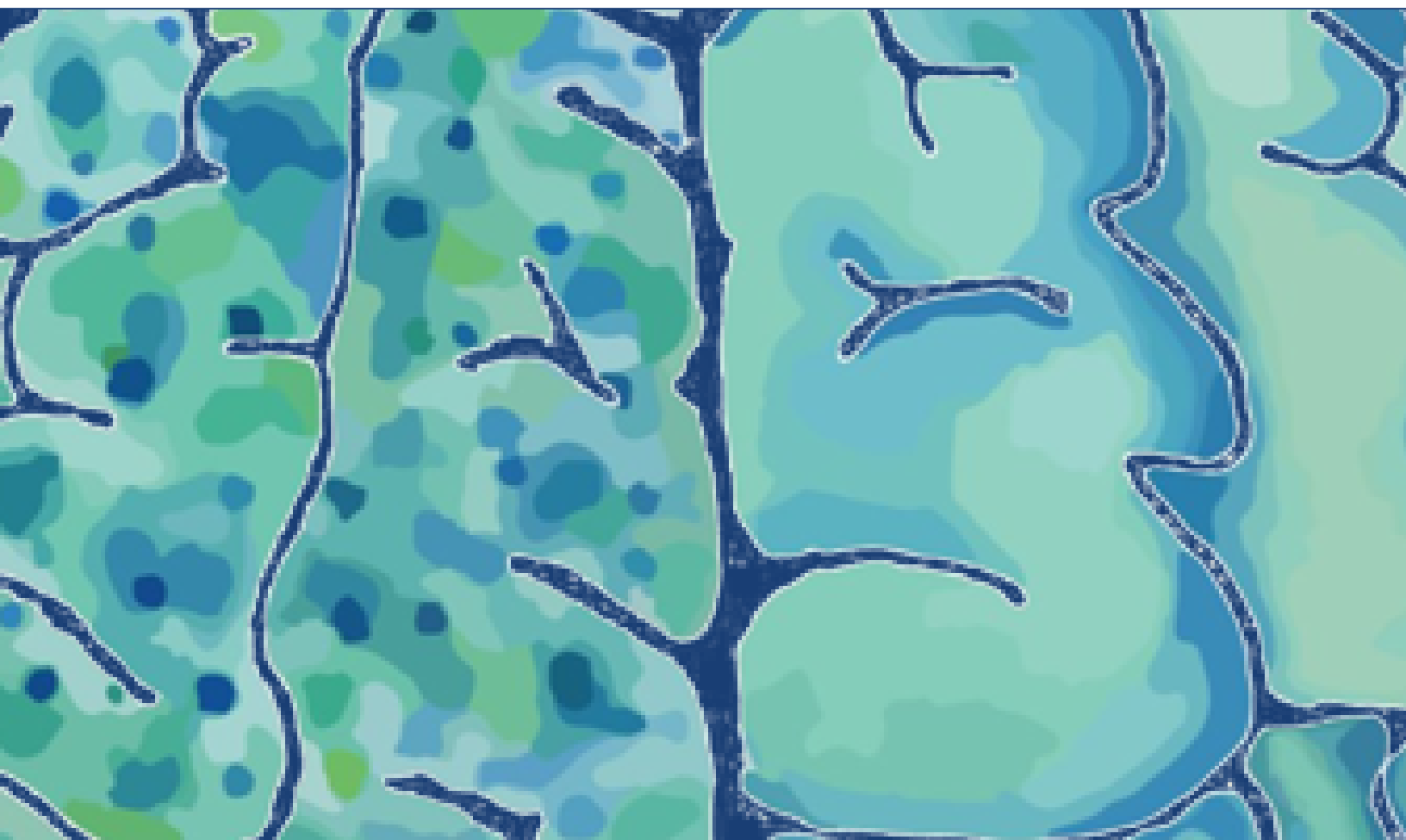




Women in Neurosurgery

Spring 2024 Newsletter





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La Jolla, CA



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Case Western Reserve
University,
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Additional Contributors



Marissa Kruk, MS3
WINS Medical Student
Committee Newsletter
Coordinator

- Sandra Yan, MD, PGY-5
- Kate Becker, MS4
- Caren Stuebe, MS4
- Sangami Pugazenthi, MS3

Chair's Message

I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring 2024 edition of the Women in Neurosurgery Newsletter, where we bring you the latest updates, insights, and inspirations from the WINS community.

Here, we share the impressive accomplishments of our practicing neurosurgeons, fellows, residents, and medical students with our *WINS Community Update* section. We are also honored to feature Dr. Deborah Benzil in this segment of the *Legacy Interview* series. Continue reading to learn about the inspiring work of international female neurosurgeons in our *WINS Around the World* piece.

We hope you will join us in Chicago this May for the upcoming AANS Annual meeting, where WINS will hold several exciting events. Read about our latest WINS social media initiatives and events in our *Stay in the Loupe* piece, and visit us at neurosurgerywins.org for a comprehensive list of upcoming events.

It has been a true honor to be Chair of this distinctive organization this year. The WINS community is filled with incredible, talented individuals, at all levels, who are breaking barriers and paving the way for future women, with a continued emphasis on promoting growth and diversity within the field of neurosurgery. The dedication, passion, and talent in this group is truly remarkable. Keep pushing boundaries, challenging norms, and supporting each other. Your contributions are invaluable and the impact you are making is extraordinary.

Sincerely,

Sharona Ben-Haim, MD
Department of Neurological Surgery
UC San Diego

Community Updates

Attendings

WINS Women of the Month

Enjoy these highlights and photos from our recent WINS Woman of the Month social media posts:



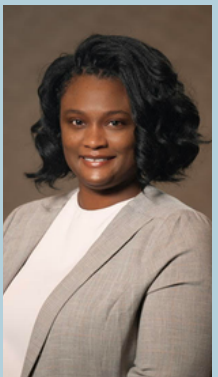
Dr. Linda Liao

Dr. Liao is the W. Eugene Stern Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her interest in neuroscience stemmed from a fascination with the mysteries of the brain. She then met a female neurosurgeon at Stanford, Dr. Francis Conley, who inspired her to pursue neurosurgery. Her favorite surgical cases to perform are left (dominant) or temporal glioma resections with intra-operative awake mapping. She has performed almost 500 of these procedures and explained that no 2 patients are the same.



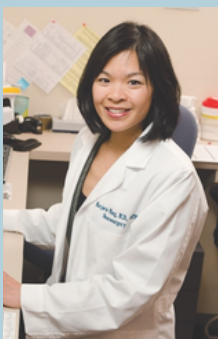
Dr. Analiz Rodriguez

Dr. Rodriguez is the Director of Neurosurgical Oncology at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She was named a distinguished alumna in the MD PhD category by her medical school, Case Western Reserve University. When reflecting on her most meaningful accomplishments, Dr. Rodriguez stated that she is blessed to have had the support and opportunity to become “what I wanted to be when I grow up”. Her advice for women in neurosurgery is to have open and honest conversations with the people you work with. Neurosurgery is definitely a team sport so respecting your teammates and focusing on similarities rather than differences can go a long way.



Dr. Tiffany Hodges

Dr. Hodges is an Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery at Case Western Reserve University. She has been interested in neuroscience since age 12 and was inspired to pursue neurosurgery after attending a multidisciplinary movement disorder conference where neurologists and neurosurgeons discussed patients eligible for deep brain stimulation. When asked about challenges throughout her career, she discussed the isolation that comes with being the “only” or “one of the few” and how others may judge you based on your gender/ethnicity before ever knowing you, your work ethic, or talents. She stated, “At some point, you have to become the change that you want to see, and not let those challenges deter you from achieving your goals and seeking out mentorship.” Her advice for women interested in neurosurgery is: #1. Do it! #2. Don’t ever give up.



Dr. Marjorie Wang

Dr. Wang is a Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Complex Spine Fellowship Program at Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin. Her favorite type of case to perform is currently robotic assisted spine surgery. Robotic assisted surgery allows her to think about surgical planning in different ways and improve efficiency in both what she does as a surgeon and in reducing OR resources needed for each case. One fun fact about Dr. Wang is that she loves to support local animal shelters and is the proud mom to two rescue dogs.

Spotlight on

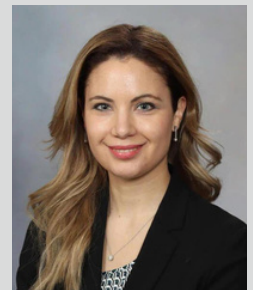


A Celebration of Success:

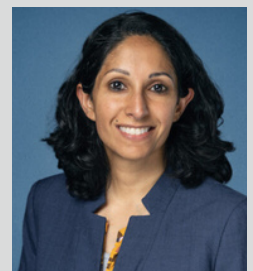
Congratulations Dr. Julie Pilitsis on being appointed Chair of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson Department of Neurosurgery and Physician Executive for Functional Neurosurgery at Banner Neurosciences



Congratulations to Dr. Maria Peris Celda on her promotion to Professor of Neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic



Congratulations Dr. Maryam Rahman on being awarded the inaugural University of Florida College of Medicine Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) Diamond Award



Community Updates

Fellows + Residents + Medical Students

Congratulations

Corner:

Congratulations to the incredible MS4 WINS Medical Student Committee Members who successfully matched into neurosurgery this March! We look forward to seeing all that you will contribute to our field.



Caren Stuebe

Co-Chair

Matched at Inova Fairfax Medical Campus



Debarati Bhanja

Co-Events Chair

Matched at NYU Langone Health



Kathryn Becker

Social Media Chair

Matched at UC San Diego



Kiana Prather

Virtual Events

Matched at University of Oklahoma



Alex Miner

Research Liaison

Matched at George Washington University



Jovanna Tracz

National Events

Matched at University of Alabama at Birmingham

Congratulations to the newly selected 2024-2025 WINS Medical Student Committee Executive Board. Thank you for your leadership on the WINS MSC, and we are so excited to see all that you will accomplish in the upcoming year.

- **Co-Chairs:** Sangami Pugazenthi and Erin Walker
- **Event Co-Chairs:** Megan Bauman and Vid Raturi
- **Membership Chair:** Nancy Gonzalez
- **Research Co-Chairs:** Karen Malacon and Kathleen Botterbush
- **Social Media Chair:** Reyna Escalante

Trainee Tuesday Features



Dr. Lindsey Freeman

Dr. Lindsey Freeman is a PGY-5 at the University of Colorado. Her clinical interests include spine and neurotrauma. Dr. Freeman wants to share with our WINS community that she can't underestimate how much her interpersonal relationships, especially with her twin sister, Lauren, have made both her journey through medical school and residency easier, and made the prospect of her career so much more fulfilling. She will use every platform she can to advocate for sustaining these types of relationships. She believes it makes us better surgeons and physicians.



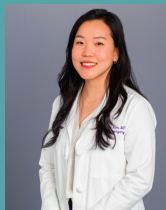
Dr. Katherine Holste

Dr. Katherine Holste is a PGY-6 at the University of Michigan and is interested in pediatric neurosurgery. Her research has focused on understanding the pathophysiology of and potential treatments for posthemorrhagic hydrocephalus in the hopes of one day helping our tiniest patients. Her advice for young women interested in neurosurgery: "It is so important to find people during your training who will both celebrate with you in the good times and empathize with you during the tough times. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without my co-residents, Whitney and Sara's, love and support."



Dr. Anja Srienc

Dr. Anja Srienc is a PGY-7 at Washington University. Dr. Srienc's clinical interests are vascular and endovascular neurosurgery. She will be completing her endovascular fellowship at Johns Hopkins University next year followed by an open vascular fellowship with Dr. Lawton at the Barrow Neurological Institute the year after. Dr. Srienc's research interests lie in using optical imaging methods to study cerebral dysfunction, blood flow dynamics, and identify biomarkers of neurological decline after subarachnoid hemorrhage. Dr. Srienc loves hiking in the mountains, scuba diving, and going on international travel adventures. As a native Minnesotan now living in Missouri, she misses the cold, snowy winters and cross-country skiing.



Dr. Nora Kim

Dr. Nora Kim is a PGY-6 resident at NYU. She was born in Atlanta but grew up in Korea and Canada. She studied neuroscience at Dartmouth College and obtained her medical degree from Rush Medical College. Her clinical and research interests include spine surgery, especially pertaining to cervical spine, and WINS-related topics. She is looking forward to spine surgery fellowship at Rush in 2025. She finds working with the next generation of trainees very rewarding and wants to maintain involvement in education and mentorship throughout her career.



Dr. Nabihah Quadri

Dr. Nabihah Quadri is a PGY-5 neurosurgical resident at SSM Saint Louis University Hospital. Her neurosurgical clinical and research interests are in pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Quadri's non-medical hobbies include everything from being a mocktail connoisseur to doing home improvement projects.



Dr. Sarah Nguyen

Dr. Sarah Nguyen is a PGY-3 at the University of Utah. Her clinical interests include vascular and endovascular neurosurgery. She loves teaching and is very passionate about getting medical students involved in research and shadowing. When Dr. Nguyen is not in the hospital, she enjoys snowboarding, kayaking, hiking, biking, and going on adventures with her husband and two big dogs.



Dr. Nicole De La Pena

Dr. Nicole De La Pena is a PGY-1 at the Mayo Clinic. Her clinical interests are wide ranging and include skull base, peripheral nerve and pediatrics. She is involved in research examining prognosis and treatment effects of neuroimaging, as well as exploring novel neuroanatomical approaches to surgery. Dr. De La Pena has a strong art background and loves photography, music and dance. She makes an active effort to play piano as often as possible to as a relaxing creative outlet.

AANS *Preview*

See the schedule below for details regarding the WINS events at the upcoming 2024 AANS Annual Meeting. We hope to see you in Chicago, Illinois!

Friday, May 3

- **WINS Executive Board Meeting: 11:30AM-1:30PM**
 - McCormick Place, North Building N227B

Saturday, May 4

- **WINS Breakfast: 7:00-8:15AM**
 - Marriott Marquis Great Lakes Ballroom B, Level 2
 - Tickets may be purchased through AANS Annual Scientific Meeting registration
- **WINS Reception: 5:00-7:00PM**
 - Venue to be announced

Mentorship in a Minute

We are excited to share that the WINS Mentorship in a Minute Program will be available again at the 2024 AANS Annual Meeting. This program was first launched at the 2023 CNS Annual Meeting and was an incredible success! Mentorship in a Minute pairs female medical students with residents or fellows for a 15-minute in-person meeting to discuss their interest in neurosurgery and invaluable career advice.



Thank you to the following residents and fellows who volunteered for the Mentorship in a Minute Program at the CNS Annual Meeting: Jessica Campos, Sarah Merrill, Nina Yoh, Rachel Vaughan, Danielle Golub, Cordelia Orillac, Emal Lasha, Jason Hsieh, Ian Connolly, Chuck Mackel, Kara Parikh, Jeffrey Breton, Roxana Beladi, Tessa Harland, Ebtessam Abdulla, Laura Zima, Samantha Spellicy, Lizzy Wicks, Joseph Antonios, Brandon Lucke-Wold, Helen Shi, Erin Graves, Katie Kearns, Lauren Stone, Julie Chan, Danielle Dang, and Eshan Dowlati.

A message for the

WINS Community

from Dr. Anthony Asher,
President of AANS:



A Warm Welcome to WINS Members at 2024 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting: Embracing "What Matters" Together

As we approach the 2024 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, May 3-6, under the theme "What Matters," I am reminded of the significant role each member plays in shaping the future of neurosurgery and beyond. This year, our gathering is not just a conference; it's a clarion call to action for every physician to recognize and utilize their inherent potential for societal impact.

Physicians, especially women in neurosurgery, have historically been at the forefront of crucial societal transformations, thanks to their unwavering dedication to the art and science of medicine. Yet, we often underestimate the power of our collective voice. It's time to broaden our discussions beyond the clinical, to address fundamental questions about the common good, and to harness our diverse experiences to create new knowledge and extend our influence.

The AANS is committed to enhancing its partnership with Women in Neurosurgery (WINS). We are dedicated to encouraging more women to pursue careers in neurosurgery and promoting leadership opportunities within our national organizations. Our special events tailored for WINS members at the 2024 Annual Meeting exemplify this commitment.

A highlight of our program is the participation of Margaret Hoover, renowned political commentator and author, as the WINS-Louise Eisenhardt Lecturer on Saturday, May 4. This event follows a special WINS breakfast event with Ms. Hoover, offering a unique opportunity for dialogue and networking among women in our field.

Together, we'll explore universally resonant themes such as empathy, innovation, resilience and leadership, emphasizing our shared humanity and the core values that unite us. We're setting a precedent for future endeavors, aiming to inspire a united purpose and consolidated action towards widespread beneficence.

In Chicago, a city as diverse and dynamic as our community, we look forward to delving into "What Matters" and unlocking our full potential to make a lasting impact on the world. I eagerly anticipate welcoming you to what promises to be an inspiring and transformative gathering.

Sincerely,

Anthony Asher, MD

Anthony Asher, MD
President, American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Women in Neurosurgery

Legacy Interview

Featuring Dr. Deborah Benzil



The Legacy Interview is a feature of the WINS Newsletter aimed at highlighting veteran members of the WINS community. We had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Deborah Benzil, Vice Chair of Neurosurgery at the Cleveland Clinic and founding member of WINS:

How would you describe your journey in neurosurgery?

As a young child, I wanted to be a professional athlete. When I realized that was not going to work out, I wanted to become an athletic trainer for a professional sports team. It then dawned on me that being an athletic trainer as a woman was probably going to entail becoming a physician. That is what initially sparked my interest in medicine. In college, I was very invested in women's health issues. I did not major in the sciences – I majored in health care delivery and the sociology of health care. When I went to medical school, I expected to end up in an area of children's or women's health because of my public health background. However, I fell in love with neurosurgery during a rotation, and I have not looked back. I did not match into neurosurgery at first. I went to the NIH to try to improve my resume and get into the field. This enabled me to meet my husband, which was very fortuitous. Eventually, I was accepted into a program a few years later. I started my career with an interest in peripheral nerve and brain tumor research. I then left academics for a while and started a private practice. I later ended up back in academics. In the last 20 years, I have focused on spine, general neurosurgery, and the socioeconomic aspects of neurosurgery.

Throughout the course of your career, what are some of the accomplishments you are most proud of?

Number one has to be publishing "The future of neurosurgery: a white paper on recruitment and retention of women in neurosurgery". WINS was asked to write this piece, and I was able to take the lead on it. At the time, I thought it was really important, but I have subsequently realized that organizations across United States use it as a roadmap for how they can bring women and minorities into their systems. I learned that the Cleveland Clinic, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and several national anesthesia organizations have used it. This piece was a very important statement at the time that allowed women and other underrepresented minorities to go to leadership and present steps for advancement into more prominent positions. I know that this work has impacted a lot of people over time. Similarly, some of my most important work was on the survey discussing sexual harassment in neurosurgery. This is an issue that everyone knew happened, but it was swept under the rug. Being able to bring this topic into the light was really important.

Throughout my career, there are also many special moments related to positively impacting the lives of patients and their families. One of the most moving stories from early in my career was a patient who died from metastatic cancer. I had taken care of her for some time and performed numerous procedures - she lived for around 18 months after I first met her. When she passed away, her husband called me. I tried to comfort and reassure him. He said, "You have prepared us so much for this moment that you are the first person I called. I just have to thank you. She died and her loss is going to be great, but I know that one day everything will be okay. You helped us both get to that place." To me, this story represents the recognition that we profoundly impact our patients' lives in many different ways.





As a trailblazing woman in neurosurgery, what are some of the challenges you faced? How did you overcome them?

I knew that getting into neurosurgery, getting through residency, and getting my first job would be tough. I did start my career at a time when I had to work harder, work longer, and work better than my male colleagues. I had to think more about what I wore and try to be accepted without being able to do things like play golf. Every aspect of starting out was at least 50% harder for me than it was for men in the field. At the time, I just put my head down and worked harder. Things that were essential to my success were asking for open, honest feedback and having a supportive partner. I also figured out ways to sustain balance in my life – I needed to have a break from the hard work and the stress. I have made an effort to maintain relaxation, fun, and happiness in my life.

What does the “Spirit of WINS” mean to you? How have you embodied that throughout your career?

WINS has been everything for me. When we started, I realized that I was not alone in the world. There were women out there who were experiencing the same thing as me. Many people talk about the “glass ceiling”, but I love the concept that Karin Muraszko refers to as the “glass house”. When you were the only woman in a program, it felt like everyone could see you and everything you did at all times – you were always being watched. This was a very isolating feeling. Connecting with other women through WINS and recognizing that I was not alone was enormously beneficial. WINS has also provided invaluable opportunities for networking, career-building, sponsorship, and strategizing. I was blessed with a particularly close and valuable GOGN (Good Old Girls Network) that included WINS luminaries Gail Rosseau, Edie Zusman, and Karin Muraszko. We met and supported each other especially during our early careers but remain close now for over 30 years. I have tried to pay it back and make things better for the women who came behind me through mentorship and education.

What are your aspirations for the future of WINS and the field of neurosurgery as a whole?

When we started WINS, we hoped that it would not be needed at some period of time. Eventually, we hoped there would be no difference between women and men in neurosurgery. I anticipate that there will be a role for WINS indefinitely. Even if we do reach a point where 50% of neurosurgery is female, we will always have a different perspective. There is always a role for collaboration with people who seem more like you and for collaboration with the whole world of neurosurgery. There are aspects of being a woman in neurosurgery that will always be somewhat special. WINS has brought things like socioeconomic education, leadership, mentorship, and patient satisfaction to the forefront– all of these concepts came from women having slightly different perspectives on the world of neurosurgery than our male colleagues.

In terms of the field overall, I would hope that we reinvigorate embracing innovation and true change. We must not just tinker with new techniques and technology. There is a great opportunity to continue improving and maintain neurosurgery’s relevance for many years to come.

What words of wisdom would you like to share with WINS members?

Find your passion and follow your own dreams. Try really hard not to build a journey based on what other people say is important. Following your own path will bring you happiness. Shape your dream and always have the courage to keep it in your vision. With life, sometimes you have to adjust that path and vision – be willing to embrace that.

What is your most cherished WINS memory?

My most cherished WINS memory was seeing the book *Heart of a Lion, Hands of a Woman – What Women Neurosurgeons Do* published. We were able to bring together the talent of all generations of women in neurosurgery at the time. It was a beautiful way to celebrate all that WINS was - we shared the creative output and expression of the WINS community. I believe the book has continued to live on in a very effective way.

Dr. Benzil, we sincerely thank you for your insight and advice!



WINS is truly a global community! We are thrilled to highlight these trailblazing women in neurosurgery from around the world:

Dr. Kate Drummond – Australia

Dr. Drummond graduated from the University of Sydney in 1988 and underwent Neurosurgery training in Sydney and Melbourne, followed by Neuro-oncology fellowships at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard University. She earned her MD from the University of Melbourne in 2008 and currently serves as Director of Neurosurgery at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Specializing in brain tumor biology and clinical management, she excels in awake craniotomy, intraoperative MRI, and fluorescence-assisted tumor resection. With over 150 peer-reviewed articles and \$23 million in grant funding, her research spans immunotherapy, surgical innovations, and patient care. Dr. Drummond is Co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience, sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Neurosurgery, and contributes significantly to neurosurgical education globally. She chairs Pangea Global Health Education and engages in teaching endeavors in Africa annually. Additionally, she holds leadership positions in various neurological surgery societies and was honored as President of Academia Eurasiana Neurochirurgica. Recognized with the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2019, she's lauded for her contributions to neuro-oncology and community health.

Dr. Nelci Zanon – Brazil

Dr. Zanon has been a consultant pediatric neurosurgeon at Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) in Brazil since 1995 and Head of the CENEPE Group (Pediatric Neurosurgical Center) since 2002. She completed her neurosurgical training in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and a pediatric neurosurgical fellow in Marseille, France, with the supervision of Prof Maurice Choux. She also spent a short time at the Birmingham Pediatric Hospital in the UK under the mentorship of Prof Antony Hockley and at the Sick Children Hospital in Toronto under the mentorship of Prof Harold Hoffman and Robin Humphreys. Her main clinical interests are in brain tumors and congenital malformations: craniosynostosis, hydrocephalus, spina bifida. Her research interests include surgical simulation, fetal spina bifida repair, and non-invasive intracranial pressure monitoring. She is Chair of the Pediatric Neurosurgical Committee at the WFNS (World Federation of Neurological Societies), Vice Chair of the Education Committee at the ISPN (International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery) and President Elect of the Brazilian Women Medical Association (ABMM).

Dr. Sylvia Shitsama – Kenya

Dr. Sylvia Shitsama Nyamweya is a Kenyan consultant neurosurgeon at the Kenyatta National Referral Hospital, marking her as the first female neurosurgeon in Kenya and one of the few in the nation. Following her admission into the neurosurgery residency program at Kenyatta National Hospital in October 2008, operated by the University of Nairobi, she earned her Master of Medicine (MMed) degree in Neurosurgery in February 2015, subsequently becoming Kenya's pioneer female neurosurgeon. Post-graduation, she assumed the role of consultant neurosurgeon at Kenyatta National Hospital and concurrently serves as a lecturer at the College of Health Sciences at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) since January 2016. Additionally, she extends her expertise to Sage Brain and Spine Clinic in Nairobi since June 2017, while also advocating for increased enrollment and output of specialist neurosurgeons through funding initiatives. Dr. Shitsama has received a variety of awards for her incredible accomplishments. She was named among the "Top 40 Women Under 40 in Kenya" in 2017 by the Nation Media Group and received the Pioneer Award for Health Excellence at the Grow, Unite, Build, Africa (GUBA) Awards in 2022.

Dr. Marike Broekman – Netherlands

Dr. Broekman serves as a neurosurgeon at Haaglanden Medical Center/Leiden University Medical Center and as a visiting scholar at the Department of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Having trained at University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands, and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, her expertise lies in Neuro-Oncology and Ethics. As the head of Translational Neuro-Oncology and principal investigator of a neuro-oncology lab, she mentors 19 PhD students and secures grants for innovative brain tumor diagnosis and treatment strategies, particularly focusing on communication in the tumor microenvironment. Dr. Broekman demonstrates dedication to the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) through her involvement as both a trainee and faculty member, eventually chairing the ethico-legal committee. She serves as an examiner for EANS and currently chairs the Individual Members Committee since 2019. Additionally, she hosts "Dura" – a podcast about what keeps neurosurgeons up at night.

Dr. Aneela Darbar – Pakistan

Dr. Aneela Darbar serves as a senior consultant neurosurgeon at King's College Hospital, Dubai, UAE, boasting over 15 years of expertise in complex brain and spine diseases as a U.S. board-certified neurosurgeon. Specializing in skull base, endoscopic, and minimally invasive surgeries, she earned her medical degree from Dow University of Health Sciences, Pakistan, and completed residency training at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Syracuse. Darbar pursued fellowships in minimally invasive cranial surgery in Sydney, Australia, and skull base at St. Louis University, Missouri. Formerly, she held positions as Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at St. Louis University and The Aga Khan University Karachi, where she also served as Program Director for Neurosurgery training. Transitioning to Mukhtar A. Sheikh Hospital, Multan, she assumed the role of Medical Director and Consultant Neurosurgeon, continuing to perform pro-bono surgeries in Pakistan. A leader and advocate for females in neurosurgery, Dr. Darbar founded the Women in Neurosurgery (WIN) chapter in Pakistan, contributing to a significant increase in female neurosurgeons in the country over the past decade. Currently, she holds the position of Vice-Chair of WIN for the Asian Congress of Neurosurgeons. Recognitions include the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award by Dow Graduate Association, SATHA Innovation Award, Ponds Miracle Women Award, and nomination for the Teaching and Humanitarian Award, SUNY Syracuse.

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Meeting

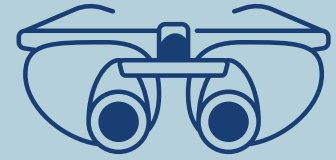
Did you attend the WINS Reception at the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Meeting? Over 150 women from 30 countries were represented at the event! It was an incredible gathering filled with excitement and hope for the future of our community. Thank you to our industry partner, Stryker, for sponsoring the reception.



WINS and Mission:Brain Foundation Scholarship

WINS and the Mission:Brain Foundation are excited to announce a newly established scholarship to support neurosurgery senior residents or junior faculty to perform a 6 month observership in the United States! This scholarship aims to support women pursuing a career in neurosurgery at a global level by providing mentorship, networking, research, and clinical opportunities. As the first round of applications closed in March 2024, we look forward to announcing the scholarship recipients.

Stay in the Loupe



Read the latest update on WINS social media initiatives and events:

#WINSxResearchMonday

Our WINS social media team continues to highlight research publications using #WINSxResearchMonday. We recently featured “Increases in Female Productivity and Female Mentorship Highlight Sustained Progress in Previously Identified Neurosurgical Gender Disparities”. In this meta-analysis of female authorship in neurosurgical journals, Taha et al. found that publications with female first authors were more likely to have female senior authors. Despite the overall increase in female authorship over time, the rate of increase in female first authors was significantly greater than that of female senior authors. Another post featured “A Decade of Diversity: Using Statistical Indices to Compare Neurosurgery to other Surgical Specialties” where Persad-Paisley et al. take a statistically rigorous approach to analyzing how diversity indices in neurosurgery compare to other fields.

Are you conducting research related to diversity, health equity, and novel science in neurosurgery? Share your work with our WINS team by adding #WINSxResearchMonday to your posts!

Women in Neurosurgery Virtual Happy Hour Series

The Women in Neurosurgery Virtual Happy Hour Series facilitates insightful sessions to foster knowledge exchange and career development opportunities for members of the WINS community at all levels of training. One segment in this series, Preserving Potential: Demystifying Modern Egg and Embryo Preservation, was held on November 8th. The event featured the expertise of Dr. Iris Insogna, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Specialist at Columbia University Medical Center. Our series continued with an important discussion of gender disparities in neurosurgery compensation featuring Dr. Lola Chambless, Dr. Ellen Air, Dr. Julie Pilitsis, Temitope Oshinowo, and Michael Rallo on February 28th. The Virtual Happy Hour events are available to view on our new Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@neurosurgerywins>

WINS Medical Student Committee Events

Additionally, the WINS Medical Student Committee has organized a number of highly impactful virtual events for medical students of all genders who are interested in neurosurgery. The Residency Match Series featured Neurosurgery Sub-internships 101: The Logistics on November 29th with invaluable advice on navigating the away rotation process from MS4s Caren Stuebe, Debi Bhanja, and Kiana Prather. The series continued with Post-Interview Actions: Communication, Letters, and Rank Lists featuring Dr. Erika Peterson and Dr. Megan Jack on January 16th. The Introduction to Neurosurgery Series offered insights into building a career in neurosurgery practice types on February 12th, featuring distinguished professionals like Dr. Suzanne Therin, Dr. Rupa Juthani, Dr. Betsy Grunch, and Dr. Lindsay Lasseigne. Moreover, the Guide to Research for Medical Students Series delved into planning and executing clinical research projects, led by experts Dr. Roberta Sefcik and Dr. Justin Zhang on January 25th. On March 5th, the International Medical Graduate Series highlighted pathways to neurosurgery through postdoc positions for IMGs, featuring insights from Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, Dr. Paolo Palmisciano, and Dr. Paola Meade. These events collectively enriched understanding and provided invaluable resources for individuals interested in neurosurgery. We would sincerely like to thank all members of the WINS community who participated.

How to Get Involved

Are you passionate about equity, diversity, and representation in neurosurgery? Would you like to stay connected with the WINS community? Become a member of WINS! Attendings, fellows, residents, and medical students can follow these instructions to become an official member of the WINS roster:

<https://neurosurgerywins.org/membership/>