



Endocrine Surgery Section

AHNS Endocrine Surgical Section Newsletter/Counsel Report June 2020

GW Randolph MD FACS FACE

This represents an interval report on the Endocrine Section activities. The American Head Neck Society Endocrine Section (AHNS-ES) has emerged as the single largest US and international society managing thyroid surgical disease and cancer with a membership of well over 1700. ***The Endocrine Section now has a membership of nearly 500.*** I am proud to again outline the endocrine section vision and mission below:

Endocrine Section Vision: *To provide an organizational home for all surgeons who have a special interest in endocrine surgery, under the umbrella of the American Head and Neck Society.*

Endocrine Section Mission: *To advance education, research, and quality of care for the patient with thyroid and parathyroid diseases.*

Your Endocrine Section in the COVID crisis

Endocrine Sectional leadership provided a template for stratifying endocrine surgical cases during the pandemic and also a suggested narrative to guide the sometimes difficult patient discussions for endocrine surgical cases postponements.

<https://www.ahns.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Endocrine-Surgery-during-the-Covid.pdf>

<https://www.ahns.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AHNS-Endocrine-Section-patient-message.pdf>

In addition we have just initiated a white paper to guide the safe use of fiber optic endoscopy in the preop head, neck and endocrine surgery clinic as we open up from the pandemic.

Introducing our New Endocrine Section Webinar program

Starting in July we will start our new endocrine section webinar series. These will be one hour case based presentations with related literature discussion. This program will be led by **Nishant Agarwal** and **Mike Singer** the leaders of our Education Committee. The inaugural session will be centered on work up of thyroid and parathyroid cases, the second session will be on reoperative surgery while the third will

be a surprise international panel. Dates and topics will be announced shortly. We thanks **Babak Givi, Mike Moore and Arnaud Beuley** whose successful fellow webinar program was the model used for our endocrine section program

Twitter Chat Session between the AHNS Endocrine Section and ThyCa











To celebrate Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month, in October we started a series of joint Twitter Chat Session between the AHNS Endocrine Section and ThyCa, an influential thyroid cancer survivor group. The chat was an outsized success with questions raised from a multitude of thyroid cancer patients, all answered by AHNS members based in far-flung cities ranging from Los Angeles to Boston. The sessions have been supported by our Patient Education committee Chair and Vice chair **Miriam Lango** and **Ellie Maghami** and our Social Media Chair **Allen Ho**.

The partnership with ThyCa has been so successful that several more Twitter chat sessions are in the works and will also involve the ATA who wanted to be involved given the Twitter chat sessions success. Special thanks to **Vinny Dhillon, Amy Chen, and Carol Bier-Laning** for anchoring the sessions, along with the other surgeons who joined in. The program of ThyCa and AHNS program of Twitter Chats has included the following sessions: December- ThyCa and AHNS Thyroid Cancer Preop consent, March – ThyCa and AHNS medullary thyroid cancer awareness, June – ThyCa and AHNS differentiated thyroid cancer awareness and Sept – ThyCa and AHNS thyroid cancer awareness.

This past Thursday 6/11/20, the AHNS Endocrine Section, ThyCa, and ATA teamed up for the latest Twitter Chat, focused on the topic “Well-Differentiated Thyroid Cancer.” Topics included the effects of COVID-19, reasonable periods of delay for treatment, and active surveillance. The chat was a remarkable success – surgeons and endocrinologists fielded questions and listened to the concerns of patients. In just an hour, there were nearly 500 tweets for 1.5 million Impressions, a new record for **#AHNSChat**. The Twitter chat was furthermore tied to Facebook polls measuring related question responses. AHNS Endocrine Section members who participated included Carol Bier-Laning, Amy Chen, Allen Ho, Catherine Sinclair, Brendan Stack, Daniel Kwon, James Wu, Greg Randolph, and many others. These Twitter chats have become a key part of forging closer relationships with our Endocrinology colleagues at ATA as well as patients and ThyCa.











The #AHNSchat Influencers

Top 10 Influential

-  @ThyCalnc 100
-  @AmThyroidAssn 77
-  @AHNSEndo 76
-  @PennyAicardi 74
-  @DoctorAngell 74
-  @cancergirl730 66
-  @BrittanyAnne340 62
-  @JamesWuSurgery 62
-  @thyroidjournal 60
-  @HopkinsMedicine 59













Prolific Tweeters

-  @ThyCalnc 219
-  @AHNSEndo 25
-  @AmThyroidAssn 22
-  @cancergirl730 21
-  @RandolphGreg 18
-  @avitalhararim 16
-  @ohhiialexa 15
-  @brittneymemphis 14
-  @thyroidfriends 13
-  @PennyAicardi 11



Highest Impressions

-  @ThyCalnc 1.1M
-  @thyroidfriends 120.6K
-  @AmThyroidAssn 104.3K
-  @brittneymemphis 45.4K
-  @cancergirl730 29.4K
-  @teaminspire 18.8K
-  @clinicalthyroid 16.3K
-  @ZHeatherChamp 15.4K
-  @GDATF 10.5K
-  @AHNSEndo 8.0K



The Numbers

1.500M Impressions

494 Tweets

44 Participants

21 Avg Tweets/Hour

11 Avg Tweets/Participant



Twitter data from the #AHNSchat hashtag from Wed, June 10th 2020, 7:10PM to Thu, June 11th 2020, 7:10PM (America/Denver) – Symplur.



Join us for our next Twitter Chat on 9/11/2020 (5pm Pacific/8pm Eastern) for Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. Remember #AHNSchat! Please email **Allen Ho** (Allen.Ho@cshs.org) if you will be planning to join the session. Special thanks to **Allen Ho**, AHNS Endocrine Section Social Media Chair who has supervised the entire program!!

International White Paper Initiative Update:

I want to give an update regarding our global **Graves' Disease white paper** initiative. The international global networking inherent in this paper is really game changing.

It will be a product of not only the AHNS endocrine section but negotiations are complete with a total of 12 organizations to partner collaboratively the AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section and now involve: 1 – the Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS), 2 – the Brazilian Head and Neck Society, 3 – The British Association of Endocrine and Thyroid Surgeons (BAETS), 4 – the Danish Head and Neck Society, 5-the Asian Pacific Thyroid Society (APTS), 6 – The Japanese Society of Endocrine Surgeons, 7-Swedish Association of Endocrine Surgeons, 8- Asia Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AsAES), 9-African Head and Neck Society (AfHNS), 10- French Society of Endocrine Surgeons, and the 11-French Head and Neck Society, and the 12-Indian Society of Thyroid Surgeons. We've had our first organizational call and will be as a result of this reaching out to patient advocacy groups to join us in this important global project. Additional international projects are also being initiated on RF ablation and Parathyroid Auto florescence. These will be amazing additions to our large AHNS Endocrine Surgery:

<https://www.ahns.info/ahns-endocrine-surgery-guidelines/>.

Young Female Surgeon International Traveling Fellowship in the AHNS Endocrine Section

The AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section has instituted a **Young Female Surgeon International Traveling Fellowship**. This derived from the kind donations of several of the Endocrine Surgery Section's

leadership. The inaugural fellow was Dr. Caroline Muturi, Nairobi ENT Clinic. As a result of this Caroline was able to travel to the US and visit Dr. Cherie Ann Nathan our AHNS President and observe her in the clinic as well as the OR and familiarize her with Dr. Nathan's research endeavors. Subsequently Caroline and Dr. Nathan traveled together to the 2019 AHNS COSM meeting. We so much appreciate Dr. Nathan's commitment and graciousness for the inaugural fellowship. We have continued and expanded the program this year with two new fellows: Drs **Shaina Katia Lamour** Pétion-Ville, Haïti and **Oghogho Braimah**, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. They will be mentored by **Amy Chen** and **Sue McCammon** at the 2021 summer meeting. Any who wishes to donate to this program should contact Betty or myself.

AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section Organizational outreach program:

There are many organizations in the US and around the globe in the endocrine surgical space with whom the section may liaison. As a section we have embraced these societies through a major and thoughtful program which on one hand allows strategic partnership for the AHNS endocrine Section but also allows for mentorship and positions of leadership for many of our members. We below the member and assignments we have put in place:

Beth Cotrill & Louise Davies, American Thyroid Association

Kevin Brumund & Benjamin Roman, The Endocrine Society

Amy Chen & Sarah Rohde, American Academy of Clinical Endocrinology

Catherine Sinclair & Marc Cohen, American Laryngological Association

David Ludlow & Nathalie Audet, European Society of Endocrinology

David Goldstein & Brendan Stack, Latin America Thyroid Society

Dan Rocke, Ian Ganly & Vikas Mehta, International Federation of Otolaryngology Societies

Ken Kazahaya & Nitin Pagedar, Asian Federation of Endocrine Societies

Ryan Li & Carsten Palme, Asian & Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA)

Jon George & Dave Terris, International Association of Endocrine Surgeons

Thomas Oh, Mike Singer & Mike Yao British Association of Endocrine and Thyroid Surgeons

Marcus Monroe, Erivelto Volpi & Claudio Cernea, Brazilian Head and Neck Society

Brendan Stack, Natalie Silver & Mirabelle Sajisevi, International Federation of Head and Neck Oncology Societies

Gregory Randolph, Jeremy Freeman, Dave Terris & Brendan Stack, Asian Pacific Thyroid Society

Louise Davies & Neil Tolley, British Association of Head and Neck Oncology (BAHNO)

Mark Zafereo & Jose Zevallos, Panamerican Association of Otorhinolaryngology

Zaid Al-Qurayshi, Iraq Head and Neck Society

Kevin Higgins, Canadian Society of Otolaryngology

Dan Fliss & David Goldenberg Israeli Society HNS

AHNS Endocrine Surgery Library :

Since 2014, the AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section has produced 9 white papers on critical endocrine surgery questions thanks to the commitment and hard work of many of its members. These multidisciplinary papers, covering topics such as optimal management of invasive or recurrent thyroid cancer, management of the RLN and best practices for reoperative parathyroid surgery, are now available to all members of the AHNS in the Endocrine Surgery Library: <https://www.ahns.info/ahns-endocrine-surgery-guidelines/>.

In this library, you will find a free downloadable PDF of each manuscript, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the key findings and recommendations. These presentations can be utilized by AHNS members when lecturing to surgeons, endocrinologists, and other clinicians. This educational resource will continue to expand as additional white papers from the AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section become available in the near future. One such paper is the collaboration between AHNS and AACE on pediatric thyroid cancer management lead by **Brendan Stack**. Another is a project lead by **Mike Singer** "Salivary and Lacrimal Gland Dysfunction After Use of Radioactive Iodine for Differentiated Thyroid Cancer: Otolaryngology and Endocrine Management--An American Head and Neck Society Endocrine Surgery Section and Salivary Gland Section Joint Multidisciplinary Consensus Statement." **Vinny Dhillon** is nearly completed **work** on another white paper on vocal cord paralysis after thyroid surgery and **Nishant Agarwal** and **Samer Al-khudari** have started work on a paper on substernal goiter.

The papers published in this library are highly cited. Recently I proudly received this note from the journal Head and Neck:

Congratulations — your articles are among the top downloaded!

Dear Gregory W. Randolph,

We are pleased to let you know that your work, published in Head & Neck, is some of the journal's top downloaded recent papers!

1- Indications and extent of central neck dissection for papillary thyroid cancer: An American Head and Neck Society Consensus Statement

Lead authors Nishant Agarwal, Maria Evasovich and Emad Kandil

2- Surgical management of the recurrent laryngeal nerve in thyroidectomy: American Head and Neck Society Consensus Statement

Lead authors Chris Fundakowski, Nathan Hales and Nishant Agarwal

3- AHNS Series: Do you know your guidelines? AHNS Endocrine Section Consensus Statement: State-of-the-art thyroid surgical recommendations in the era of noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features

Lead authors Robert Ferris, Yuri Nikiforov and David Terris

What this means for you:

Amongst articles published between January 2017 and December 2018, your paper received some of the most downloads in the 12 months following online publication.

Your work generated immediate impact and visibility, contributing significantly to the advancement of your field.

Best wishes,

Head & Neck

Brendan Stack has spent the last 2 years representing the AHNS endocrine section as a coauthor on a panel organized by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI). Their goal was to construct, through a systematic literature search and ranked expert opinion, appropriate use criteria (AUC) for thyroid cancer diagnosis and treatment. Their citation "[Appropriate Use Criteria for Nuclear Medicine in the Evaluation and Treatment of Differentiated Thyroid Cancer](#)" was published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine.

I am especially proud to announce the first AHNS Endocrine Section Multi center research project's progress: **Louise Davies** and **Lisa Caulley** are leading the first multi institutional study under the auspice of the Endocrine Section research collaborative. A dozen institutions inside and outside the US are participating in the first study, which will examine how NIFTP has affected rates of thyroid cancer diagnosis. Data analysis is underway and we expect submission for publication toward the end of the summer.

A New Important AHNS Endocrine Section Committee:

I am very pleased to announce the **AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section Medical Oncology Advanced Thyroid Cancer committee**. We have four early and midcareer oncologists and endocrine oncologists who have volunteered to work together under the umbrella of the AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section. This includes **Nagashree Seetharmu** NY Hoftra oncologist, **Ashish Chintakuntlawer** Mayo Clinic Oncologist, **Jong Park** -MGH/Harvard Oncology and **Sina Jasmin** -MD Anderson Endocrine/Oncology, under the leadership of Chair **Allen Ho** -MSK Oncology. These individuals be working in conjunction with some of the best-known oncologists in the country. Our initial white paper pilot project is an AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section statement regarding the need for mutational testing to guide targeted therapy in advanced thyroid cancers in nearly complete. This paper will epitomize the collaborative activities necessary for optimal patient care blending head neck surgery, oncology and endocrinology in the management of advanced thyroid cancer patients. **David Shonka** and I will be helping to organize this group and its activities, blending them with the work of the other segments of the AHNS Endocrine Surgical Section.

Endocrine Section Research grant initiative:

Bill Armstrong, Brendan Stack and I coordinate research outreach grant efforts with the AHNS in order to expand the current endocrine section research grant program. Importantly we are coordinating with the main society to make sure we are in sync and optimizing grant opportunities. **Colleen Elkins** has been tremendously helpful and active in this collaborative program. This year we have for the AHNS Endocrine Section Eisai and Stryker \$10,000 each. Winners for this year will announced this month.

Please let Brendan (Bstack28@siumed.edu), I (gregory_randolph@meei.harvard.edu) or Betty (betty@AHNS.info) know how we can best serve you through activities of the Endocrine Surgery Section. We need your help and we need your expertise. We are always open and welcoming new AHNS members to the Endocrine Section. ***As an AHNS member, you need only to contact us or designate on your dues renewal to join the section and participate in any of our activities.*** Together within the head neck society we move forward!!

The AHNS Endocrine Section:

Together we provide an organizational home for all surgeons who have a special interest in endocrine surgery, under the umbrella of the American Head and Neck Society, and to in turn advance education, research, and quality of care for the patient with thyroid and parathyroid diseases.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Randolph MD FACS FACE

AHNS Endocrine Section Chair