



Skull Base Surgery Section

AHNS Skull Base Surgery Section Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Welcome from the Skull Base Surgery Section in our first newsletter which we hope will give you a glimpse of some of the activity going on in our section. I am indebted to Dr. Ivan El-Sayed and Ms. Lila Lin for putting this newsletter together.

We are "small but mighty" and have great interest and esprit de corps from so many members who are actively participating in numerous education and research collaborations. Our section leadership is listed below and there are many others who give willingly of their time to create so many learning and research opportunities.

We have active education and research collaborations within the section and with colleagues in the North American Skull Base Society and the American Rhinologic Society. We also hope to capitalize on the expertise and collaboration with international colleagues through the work of Dr. Greg Randolph and the AHNS International Advisory Service (IAS).



Dr. Ian Witterick

I would like to invite you to join us at upcoming educational events including another *Sinonasal Cancer Collaborative* virtual meeting on Wednesday March 20, 2024 (details below) and a *Panel Discussion and Skull Base Tumor Board* at COSM on Thursday May 16, 2024, in Chicago.

A special thanks to our Vice-Chair, Dr. Shirley Su who has done an amazing job keeping our section vibrant and relevant. The nominating committee (Drs. Dennis Kraus, Ivan El-Sayed and I) has proposed Dr. Su take over as Chair following the AHNS COSM meeting in May 2024. The call for nominations for selecting the next Vice-Chair of the section went out and a number of exceptional candidates were proposed. The nominating committee will be reviewing nominations and proposing a new Vice-Chair in the near future.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as Chair of this section and I want to thank all of our leaders and members for their friendship and dedicated work.

Skull Base Section Executive Team

- **Chair:** *Dr. Ian Witterick*
- **Vice Chair:** *Dr. Shirley Su*
- **Membership Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Ivan El-Sayed & Dr. Marc Cohen*
- **Research Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Derrick Lin & Dr. Zoukaa Sargi*
- **Education Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Carl Snyderman & Dr. John de Almeida*
- **Clinical Care Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Erin McKean and Dr. Ricardo Carrau*
- **Patient Advocacy Committee Chairs:** *Dr. Marilene Wang*
- **Sibling Society Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Ken Byrd, with Dr. Mathew Geltzeiler*
- **International Committee Co-Chairs:** *Dr. Dan Fliss and Dr. Dennis Kraus*
- **Social Media & Website Committee** *Dr. Ken Byrd*
- **Journal Club** *Dr. Meghan Turner & Dr. Hari Jeyarajan*
- **Skull Base Oncology Case Series Editor:** *Dr. Mathew Geltzeiler*

Call to participate from the Membership Committee

Skull Base surgeons face the challenge of managing a variety of rare tumors within an intricate multidisciplinary setting. The purpose of the Skull Base Section is to act as a focal point of exchange of ideas and information regarding patient care, treatment strategies, and to stimulate research and reach out to our sibling societies for joint projects.

We now have 131 active members registered in the section. As we grow the Skull Base Section, we have opportunities for and need the active support of our members to contribute to our various activities. We bring this quarterly newsletter to **highlight our activities and opportunities for members to get involved!**

If you would like to get involved, or have new ideas, please contact our Membership Committee Co-coordinators Dr. Ivan El-Sayed at ivan.el-sayed@ucsf.edu or Dr. Marc Cohen at cohenm2@mskcc.org, or Dr. Shirley Su at SYSu@mdanderson.org, or Dr. Ian Witterick at Ian.Witterick@sinaihealth.ca.

SAVE THE DATE! Sinonasal Cancer Collaborative

The Sibling Society has worked hard to generate *The Sinonasal Cancer Collaborative*, an online multidisciplinary tumor board that occurs biannually. There will be an upcoming webinar on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM Eastern Time (4:00 PM Pacific), focusing on the recently published International Consensus Statement on Sinonasal Tumors.

Register for this event at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bLSjzc5RQsCO-f3cin-yKQ#/registration

Over 600 people have registered in the past three Sinonasal Cancer Collaboratives. Past AHNS webinars can be viewed here: <https://www.ahns.info/meetings/virtual-education/>

SINONASAL CANCER COLLABORATIVE
SINONASAL MALIGNANCY VIRTUAL TUMOR BOARD
 Session Focus: International Consensus Statement on Sinonasal Tumors
 Wednesday, March 20th 7 PM EST

MODERATORS



Ed Kuan, MD
UC - Irvine



Garret Choby, MD
University of Pittsburgh

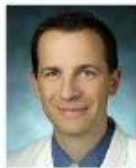


Jay Liao, MD
U Washington

TUMOR BOARD PANELISTS



Corinna Levine, MD
Miami



Nyall London, MD,
PhD
NIH/Johns Hopkins



Katharine Price, MD
Mayo Clinic



Paul Gardner, MD
Univ. of Pittsburgh



Mat Geltzeiler, MD
OHSU

Hosted by the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS), American Rhinologic Society (ARS), and the North American Skull Base Society (NASBS)

Our section is also participating in a **Combined ARS and AHNS Panel at COSM** on Thursday May 16, 2024 (4:13-5:00 pm) in the ARS program titled **ICSNT: How It Can Help Your Practice**. There is an ARS and AHNS Combined Reception hosted by the ARS in the Michigan Ballroom and Foyer at the Hyatt Regency Chicago from 5:30-7 pm. It conflicts with the AHNS Poster Session (5:30-7 pm) and President's Reception (7-8 pm) but perhaps interested section members can multi-task.

RESEARCH

Publishing Sponsored Official AHNS whitepapers: The SBS committee is calling for members to write one-page proposals for **Narrative Reviews and Position Papers**. These proposals are essential in driving forward our mission of having an efficient mechanism for our members to author AHNS sponsored white papers. Your expertise and contributions are essential to this goal. The one-page proposals need only a title, author panel, and outline.

Additionally, AHNS is encouraging applications for Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) and Clinical Consensus Statements (CCS).

If interested, please submit ideas to Ian Witterick and Shirley Su. These papers will potentially be published in an official AHNS journal (JAMA Otolaryngology or Head and Neck). You can find more information here: <https://www.ahns.info/ahns-policies-and-procedures-pp-manual/>

AHNS White Paper Landscape:

Categories:	I.) Narrative Review endorsed by AHNS	II.) Position Paper endorsed by AHNS	III.) Clinical Consensus Statement (current state) endorsed by AHNS	IV.) Clinical Practice Guidelines (future state) endorsed by AHNS
1.) Objective	To present an up-to-date review for clinicians on a topic of general common interest from the perspective of internationally recognized experts in these disciplines. Focus should be an update on the current understanding of the physiology of the disease or condition, diagnostic and treatment issues.	To present key opinions on central focused topics within the field in a scholarly, thoughtful, and well-referenced. Approach should be systematic and utilize evidence-based methodology. Discussion of controversies/ opposing views of diagnosis/treatment.	To quantitatively assess whether there is a formal agreement regarding proposed statements about diagnosis, management, complications, and/or treatment ¹ . More applicable to situations where published evidence is limited or lacking as compared to a CPG and yet there are opportunities to reduce uncertainty and improve care.	To provide recommendations for action or avoidance of action to support evidence-based practice arising from a strong, high level of evidence data ² . The CPG is quality driven, evidence based, efficient in process, transparent in its methodology, with rigorous COI processes, actionable and multidisciplinary

Education

AHNS/ARS Fellow Education Collaboration

The AHNS has a fellow curriculum month and February is for Skull Base Surgery. The AHNS has opened up the event to ARS fellows. Reciprocally, the ARS will host a combined event with the AHNS fellows in August.

Fellow educational materials include Virtual Tumor Board Recordings, AHNS Fellowship Curriculum, and suggested readings which are located here: <https://www.ahns.info/sections/skull-base/edu-materialtrainees/>

The Skull Base Section Edition of AHNS Journal Club is published twice yearly online. Journal clubs are meant to be educational, covering the latest literature on various topics in skull base surgery with particular relevance to active skull base surgeons, fellows and residents. Editions typically cover a particular tumor type or topic (i.e., mucosal melanoma, or elective neck irradiation for olfactory neuroblastoma).

Editors are needed to help publish the biannual online journal club. Responsibilities include proposing a theme, selecting two to four noteworthy landmark or new articles to present and critique. Editors then publish the abstract along with their appraisal of the article for its strengths and weaknesses (typically 2-3 each).

If interested in volunteering to co-edit in the Journal Club, contact Meghan Turner at meghan.turner@hsc.wvu.edu or Dr. Shirley Su at SYSu@mdanderson.org.

The Skull Base Oncology Series consists of case-based lectures on a focused topic available on the AHNS website and YouTube. These cases are complemented by a publication in the Journal of Neurological Surgery Reports with the article processing charge waived. We currently have 12 cases and are actively recruiting more interested authors. We appreciate the collaboration and encourage others to submit!

Skull Base Oncology Case Series: <https://www.ahns.info/sections/skull-base/case-series/>

If interested, or have suggestions for a topic, reach out to Dr. Mathew Geltzeiler at geltzeiler@gmail.com and Dr. Nyall London at nlondon2@jhmi.edu.

Other Section Activities

The AHNS Skull Base Section website is growing, and we hope to develop it into an important source of up-to-date knowledge and activity for members and patients. We are calling for members to help with our website and social media!

Here is our current website: <https://www.ahns.info/sections/skull-base/>

Members of the Social Media and Website Committee are needed to:

- Maintain and update the AHNS Skull Base Section Website with trainee and patient educational opportunities.
- Create social media posts (Instagram, X, Facebook) highlighting section activities, seminars, and relevant publications.

The Patient Advocacy Committee has worked on providing resources for patients with skull base tumors, with links on the AHNS Skull Base Section website to patient support groups, blogs, and forums for specific types of pathologies, including nasopharyngeal cancer, olfactory neuroblastoma, meningioma, chordoma, and others.

The International Committee is planning to work with the newly established AHNS International Advisory Service, an organization established to strengthen the bonds with international societies. We anticipate social, educational, and research opportunities for fellows and attendings in the future.

See you in Chicago May 15-16, 2024!

