

2011 Young Neurosurgeons Committee Nominees

Maya Anantha Babu, MD MBA

Residency: Mayo Clinic (2017)

I am seeking your vote to serve on the Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC) because I believe strongly in the importance of young neurosurgeons having a voice in organized neurosurgery. As the details of health reform legislation are implemented, it is crucial for the YNC to actively engage young neurosurgeons across the country. The neurosurgical societies will consider many pressing issues in the months to come that will have a lasting impact on how neurosurgery is practiced. It is critical for the YNC to have diligent representatives who will take it upon themselves to learn about issues important to young neurosurgeons, and inform and update their colleagues about pressing matters. While issues like the SGR (Sustainable Growth Rate), medical liability reform, and maintenance of certification may not be immediate concerns for many young neurosurgeons, these issues increasingly challenge us--not only as we leave residency or fellowship, but even during our training as we attempt to access mentors and opportunities to practice. Policy decisions made during the implementation of health reform legislation will shape and potentially limit the opportunities available to us as we enter the job market, and will determine whether we pursue independent practice, employed practice, academics, or research.

If elected, I intend to focus on three areas: (1) Enhancing communication with young neurosurgeons by expanding the types of articles covered by the YNC newsletter and trialing new formats to strengthen readership (2) Developing unique and engaging educational, hands-on opportunities at meetings (3) Building future leadership potential by creating opportunities for mentorship for residents, fellows, and young neurosurgeons in practice.

Now more than ever we need an informed, vocal and conscientious advocate to represent the interests of young neurosurgeons and strengthen communication across members. I hope to have the opportunity to serve as your representative on the YNC.

Self-Nomination

Randy S. Bell, MD

Residency: National Capital Consortium (2009)

Fellowship: Cerebrovascular/Endovascular, Washington Hospital (2010)

It is a great privilege to nominate LCDR Randy S. Bell to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr. Bell is one of the finest surgeons, scholars and teachers with whom I have had the pleasure to work, and has a tireless devotion to the furtherance of academic and organized neurosurgery.

Following graduation with honors from medical school at the University of Arizona, Dr. Bell joined the Navy and completed his residency at Bethesda/Walter Reed. He quickly rose to distinction as a scholar with 3 top finishes in the AANS Neurosurgical Jeopardy Challenge as well as multiple invited presentations at the AANS and CNS. These included the presentation of the Galbraith Award for Cerebrovascular Surgery in the field of Traumatic Pseudoaneurysms from Wartime Injuries.

After completing a Cerebrovascular and Endovascular fellowship, Dr. Bell has served his country as Assistant Department Head in Okinawa Japan and is now Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Services in Bethesda, MD. His technical skill and breadth of neurosurgical knowledge are staggering, as evidenced by the outstanding care that he affords the soldiers, sailors and airmen of this country. For this he was decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal. Dr. Bell has over 50 peer reviewed publications and presentations, and is already an expert in his field as a reviewer for the Journal of Neurotrauma and the Journal of Neurocritical Care.

Most impressive is the zeal with which Dr. Bell shares his knowledge of neurosurgery. He is a born mentor and teacher, holding weekly board review conferences for the National Consortium residents despite a 12 hour time difference in Okinawa. He deservedly won the Resident Teaching Award and continues to mentor residents and medical students alike, which he would like to continue as a member of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee.

Dr. Bell is an outstanding surgeon, officer and leader who will continue to impact neurosurgery through service to our national organizations, creating opportunities to promote young neurosurgeons and further the field of neurosurgery

Stacey Quintero Wolfe

Hoon Choi, MD

Residency: SUNY/Syracuse (2016)

My name is Hoon Choi, and I am a neurosurgery resident at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. I will begin my third year of training in July. I was initially introduced to the world of neurosurgery by my father. The subject matter and the surgeries attracted me to the field first. During the residency, another aspect of neurosurgery interested me – neurosurgery and neurosurgeons in the society we live in today. I do not need to remind you that we, as doctors and neurosurgeons, are part of history in the making. A major transition is taking place in health care now, and organized neurosurgery has never been more important. I grew up in South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. I have witnessed health care in all three countries. I studied health care as part of a public health degree while in medical school. I was a member of the founding committee for an initiative in medical school to bring together biotechnology and business. I can bring in a fresh new perspective in assisting Young Neurosurgeons Committee address the socioeconomic issues that

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face the neurosurgeons today. I can assist in liaising with the international neurosurgical community, such as the Australasian and Asian counterparts. I am a hard worker – but in neurosurgery who isn't? This year I wrote a book chapter, an article, and am working on a collaborative project with the engineering department to develop novel devices in neurosurgery. I recently interviewed 71 people in the hospital, produced a short film for the graduating chief resident, and presented it at the graduation ceremony. I have an interest in utilizing new technology such as iPad to make clinical practice more efficient and precise. I was involved in the iBleep pilot trial looking at the use of smart phones to replace pagers. I can help YNC stay relevant in today's climate of rapidly changing technology.

Self-Nomination

Abhineet Minku Chowdhary, MD

Residency: University of Washington (2010)

Fellowship: Endovascular, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (2012)

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for Dr. Abhineet Minku Chowdhary in support of his application for the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. I have known Dr. Chowdhary for nearly twelve years, and he is one of the most talented and deserving young clinician investigators that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past fifteen years. Dr. Chowdhary graduated at the top of his class from the University of Wisconsin where he majored in genetics. As a medical student at The Ohio State University who worked in my laboratory, he demonstrated a strong commitment to research.

For me as his mentor, it cannot be more rewarding than to see him to become a Neurosurgeon who poised himself for an academic career in the science field that is so close to my research interests. From a purely professional sense, Dr. Chowdhary showed a certain capacity for research and intellectual endeavor which is not encountered very often and his ability to solve new problems was truly outstanding.

Minku is a rare individual who is talented as a clinician, investigator, and neurosurgeon. Needless to say Minku is self-motivated, energetic, and a true problem solver. He is sensitive to the needs of others, mature, and ethical. Although he can work independently, he is an excellent "team player" who is well respected, trusted, and relied upon by his peers and by the other professional staff. I feel that he has the foundations and intellectual qualities to be an excellent clinician, as well as a productive scientist and academic neurosurgeon.

Vera Novak

David Edward Connor, MD

Residency: Louisiana State University/Shreveport (2014)

This is a letter of recommendation for Dr. David E. Connor, Jr., nominating him to serve on the Young Neurosurgeons Committee with the AANS. I have known David for the past four years while he has been a resident at our institution, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is a resident in good standing and will be promoted to a PGY-5 July 1, 2011. He is an active member of both the AANS and CNS, having attended and presented independent research at both annual meetings. David has also been active locally with the scientific program at the Louisiana State Neurosurgical Society (LANS) meetings for the past four years.

He is currently assisting with the Young Neurosurgeons Committee's Neurosurgical Top Gun Competition and has participated with the AANS Marshals Committee for two consecutive years. David is active at LSU with both the interdisciplinary Trauma committee and the Procedure Review committee.

Anil Nanda

W. Christopher Fox, MD

Residency: University of Michigan (2010)

Fellowship: Endovascular Neurosurgery, University of Florida/Gainesville (2008)

It is certainly a distinct pleasure to nominate LCDR William C. Fox to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr. Fox's overall excellence and professional medical expertise exemplifies the characteristics of leadership and shows the dedication, honesty and responsibility characteristic of a member of this committee.

After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and winning two NCAA titles in Hockey,

Dr. Fox played professional hockey for the Edmonton Oilers development team for two years until a career ending injury. He then attended the University of Michigan Medical School, graduating AOA in 2003 and beginning his residency at Michigan, completing his training in 2010 with an integrated fellowship at the University of Florida in Endovascular Neurosurgery.

Dr. Fox has numerous publications and presentations, steadily contributing to the peer reviewed literature throughout his training years. He is currently serving on active duty in the US Navy at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego caring for active duty service members and their families.

In summary, Dr. Fox is a tremendously gifted surgeon, displaying the expertise at an experienced staff surgeon. Perhaps most noteworthy, Chris has been driven by an unparalleled work ethic, mentoring a sense of excellence in others. He is a sincere, morally sound, and enthusiastic individual who personifies tremendous self-initiative, intellectual capability and personal integrity. He is a natural leader who encourages and achieves maximum performance in all of those around

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him, and he would make an excellent addition to organized neurosurgery at the national level.

Jeffrey M. Tomlin

Jorge Alvaro Gonzalez-Martinez, MD PhD

Residency: Cleveland Clinic (2008)

Fellowship: Epilepsy Surgery, Cleveland Clinic (2003)

I would like to nominate Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, MD, PhD. He is currently my colleague and does epilepsy surgery with me here at Cleveland Clinic. He is 39. He did his residency in Brazil, and did a fellowship at Wayne State in tumor oncology. He then came to Cleveland Clinic and did a fellowship with Ali Rezai in functional neurosurgery and then one year with me in Epilepsy Surgery. We liked him so much we made him a resident and he graduated from Cleveland Clinic's Neurosurgical Residency and we hired him on staff. He won the CNS Cushing Fellowship and went to Europe to learn stereo-electroencephalography which he successfully brought back to Cleveland and implemented a new program here. He also serves as the epilepsy surgery fellowship director and as a mentor to the residents. He is thoughtful and bright and a pleasure to be around. Best of all he accomplishes work when asked to do so.

William Bingaman

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and your colleagues at the AANS to support, enthusiastically and without reservation, the candidacy of Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, M.D., Ph.D. for membership on the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC).

I have known Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, M.D., Ph.D. since my arrival here at the Cleveland Clinic, in August 2004, first as a Staff neurosurgeon, working with him and supervising him as a resident, and since January 2009, as one of my valued partners and colleagues on the attending staff of the Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez is a creative clinical, translational, and research neurosurgeon. His work in the laboratory, in the clinic, and in the operating room is re-defining the evaluation and management of patients with medically-intractable epilepsy. He has done this in novel ways, with an inexorable logic. In fact, in a brief time he has become one of the most respected and sought-after, international leaders in the field.

Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez is one of the most comprehensive physicians that I know and never hesitates to take the extra time to investigate all details related to his patients so as to insure superb outcomes. He is diligent and exemplary in explaining complex surgical cases to his patients and is exhaustive in his efforts to care for the needs of his patient's families as well. Finally, he is a superb neurosurgeon, which is testified to by the extremely complex cases he performs and the outstanding results he achieves. His practice is conducted to the highest professional and ethical standards and he is widely respected throughout the Cleveland Clinic community.

Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez combines his incisive intellect and superlative clinical and surgical skills with a warm and inclusive personality. At the Cleveland Clinic, he is one of the most attractive and sought-after neurosurgical guides for the numerous fellows, residents, and students who come for additional training. Like the mentor we all wish to be, he makes them better than they ever could have imagined. His dedication to medical student and resident education is complete and he is sought after for his teaching skills. He combines these skills with the ability to put all around him at ease and help them strive for excellence. He is thoughtful, prudent, and exceptionally collegial and works well with other members of the team, to enhance their capabilities.

He was previously awarded the Cushing fellowship, from which he was able to enhance his skills, training, and mentoring ability in epilepsy surgery, and thereby knows at first hand the benefits of advanced education and mentoring. He wishes to use his experiences and training to advance the education and professional development of others. This is truly paying forward, with interest, the investment made in him.

In short, I recommend Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez to you enthusiastically and without reservation. He is an outstanding neurosurgeon with the highest profession skills and dedication and he possesses impeccable ethics and morals. I would be delighted, should the need ever arise, for Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez to take care of me or a member of my family. I have no higher recommendation.

I am honored to be able to support his candidacy to serve on the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. We will all benefit by having him join the YNS and thereby capably serve the AANS and the wider neurosurgical community.

Robert J. Weil

I am writing to nominate Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez as a future member of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. He is an excellent surgeon with a new focused academic practice in epilepsy surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He is both an ex-fellow of mine and colleague.

Nick Boulis

It gives me a great pleasure to write to you and your colleagues from the YNC to support my candidacy as a member of such committee

I finished my residency and fellowship in neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery three years ago at the Cleveland Clinic, where I hold an associate staff position in the same institution since then, mostly performing epilepsy surgery and general

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neurosurgery. I also hold the position of director in the epilepsy surgery fellowship program and an assistant professor position in our medical school (Lerner Cleveland Clinic Medical School), which gave me further opportunities to teach and mentor neurosurgical residents and medical students interested in neurosurgery.

I enjoy this mentor/education activity as much as I enjoy operating, and I believe that the opportunity to participate in such activities, from a national and organizational level, through the YNC, is a unique chance. It was under the sponsorship and mentorship of the AANS and CNS, through the Cushing Clinical Fellowship Award, that I was able to complement my neurosurgical training, allowing me educational opportunities unreachable for me at that time. It changed my career. For these reasons, I truly believe mentorship and opportunity is one of the best things we can offer to residents and medical students. I was fortunate to have such opportunity and I would like to extend this to others.

I understand that the YNC is an organization dedicated to promote networking among medical students, residents and new faculty who are in the beginning of their neurosurgical career, fostering mentorship and facilitating communication, education and developing leadership skill among us. I believe I fit these goals and aspirations and I would be honored to be part of such organization.

Self-Nomination

I am writing you in behalf of Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, who is applying for the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Jorge completed his Neurosurgery training with us at the Cleveland Clinic and then joined our faculty as an Epilepsy surgeon. He is extraordinarily productive - having authored many manuscripts, while maintaining a high clinical volume. He has built our SEEG program from scratch. He is committed to resident education at multiple levels, including regular anatomy sessions, teaching on the wards and OR and teaching in the laboratory setting. He, indeed, is the consummate educator.

Jorge is a gentleman and a scholar and is committed to furthering the careers of others. He most certainly is the right person to help with supporting the interests and to address the concerns of young neurosurgeons. His commitment is evident. His capacity to make a difference is immense.

Edward C. Benzel

I write this letter to nominate Dr. Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, and I do so with great enthusiasm. I have known Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez for over 10 years as he did his epilepsy surgery fellowship, followed by a full neurosurgical residency (his second, as he did his first set of residency in Brazil) at the Cleveland Clinic. Following his residency, because of his excellence, he was asked to stay on as a staff neurosurgeon at the Cleveland Clinic, specializing in epilepsy surgery.

Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez has won, among other awards, Cushing Fellowship Award which allowed him to extend his epilepsy surgery training abroad in Europe. He is a superb clinician, a dedicated teacher and an accomplished investigator. He truly has a strong passion for educating and mentoring students, residents and young colleagues, and he will be a great addition to the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee.

I am very confident that Dr. Gonzalez-Martinez will not only strengthen the AANS YNC, but also contribute significantly to our organization as a future leader.

Joung H. Lee

I have known Jorge since I did my fellowship in spine at the Cleveland Clinic in 2005-6. Since that time, Jorge has completed his residency and fellowship in neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery, and holds an associate staff position at the Cleveland Clinic. He is also the director in the epilepsy surgery fellowship program and an assistant professor position in the Lerner Cleveland Clinic Medical School. He greatly enjoys teaching and mentoring neurosurgical residents and medical students interested in neurosurgery. He recently received a teacher of the year award that recognized commitment to the residency program and teaching locally and would like to further mentoring and education activities from a national organization level. Under the sponsorship and mentorship of the AANS and CNS, through the Cushing Clinical Fellowship Award, Jorge was able to add to his neurosurgical training. The fellowship gave him educational opportunities that were previously unreachable and changed his career. Thus, he would like to serve on the YNC so that he can extend these same opportunities of mentorship and opportunity to future residents and medical students. Because of his dedication to the goals of the YNC (promoting networking among medical students, residents and new faculty who are in the beginning of their neurosurgical career; developing leadership skill, fostering mentorship, and facilitating communication and education), I submit this nomination for Jorge for the YNC and fully support his candidacy.

Eve Tsai

George M. Ibrahim, MD

Residency: University of Toronto (2016)

I'd like to nominate myself for a position on the Young Neurosurgeons Committee of the AANS. I am currently entering my fourth year of neurosurgical residency at the University of Toronto and possess several attributes and qualities that I hope will enrich the committee and add to the mission of the organization.

Firstly, I have experience on various steering committees, including the surgical steering committee of the University of Toronto, the Canadian Blood Services and Bioformatica Inc. My interest in medical advocacy is also demonstrated by

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my involvement in teaching medical students locally as well as neurosurgical residents in third world countries through on-line modules. I have won several awards including institutional recognition for mentorship and excellence in medical education.

Additionally, I have extensive experience in research and hope to advance the research mission of the YNC. While I firmly believe that research is integral to the advancement of the field of neurosurgery, I also understand that many residents and recent graduates of neurosurgery are faced with challenges in conducting meaningful research. As a resident concurrently working towards a graduate degree, I have an appreciation of the trials and tribulations associated with academic endeavors. I hope to support and advocate for such goals on the YNC of the AANS.

Finally, I am organized, collegial and collaborate well with others. I believe in the importance of innovation in reaching out to membership and appealing to a broad base of young neurosurgeons. I also believe in the importance of effective communication in teamwork in the success of any organization and have working knowledge of five languages.

Self-Nomination

Tyler James Kenning, MD

Residency: Albany Medical Center (2011)

Fellowship: Skull Base Surgery, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (2012)

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Tyler Kenning, our current Chief Resident, to The Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Simply stated, I cannot recommend any single individual more strongly for this opportunity than Tyler Kenning. I have known Dr. Kenning for six years and he is an outstanding individual. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to teaching. He often takes the lead in organizing resident educational meetings, has authored peer-reviewed articles, and written several grant proposals during this brief time. He has successfully won awards at state and national meetings for his work examining the effectiveness of hinge craniotomy for the treatment of elevated intracranial pressure, and for analyzing outcomes of anterior cervical surgery in a randomized trial of periprocedural decadron administration. By using an analytic, common-sense approach to these everyday neurosurgical problems, he demonstrates his potential to help the Young Neurosurgeons Committee.

Tyler is an indefatigable worker who accepts all assignments with commitment and enthusiasm. He has been invariably dependable and trustworthy in the performance of all assigned tasks. In addition, he has consistently shown personal initiative to extend his efforts beyond our standard expectations. He works well with surrounding health care personnel, resident, and staff within the hospital. He has interest in understanding the problems surrounding resident and medical student education and the socio-economic concerns of young neurosurgeons. He is a natural leader and is interested in participating within organized neurosurgery. I am confident he will help provide solutions to Committee problems and will be committed to participating within the Committee.

In summary, I believe Dr. Kenning has the talent, intellect, drive and focus to contribute significantly to our field and to the YNC. I urge you to give serious consideration to his application.

Alan S. Boulos

Suresh N. Magge, MD

Residency: University of Pennsylvania (2008)

Fellowship: Pediatric Neurosurgery, Children's Hospital/Brigham & Women's Hospital (2009)

This letter is in support of Dr. Suresh Magge in his application for AANS young neurosurgeons committee. Dr. Magge joined us at Children's National Medical Center two years ago, bringing with him an extraordinary level of interest as well as experience in the field of clinical research. In addition to being a successful and busy clinician, he is also an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics and is currently involved with a number of different academic projects. Recent results from his work were presented at the Pediatric Section Meeting in Cleveland this past December and the resident presenting was awarded the Shulman prize for their meaningful and creative insight. I believe Suresh possesses the passion and stamina to be a renowned neurosurgeon in the long run. He is also a skilled and motivated teacher and as a whole embodies the next generation of surgeon-scientists. I trust you will feel as I do and I look forward to his future contributions in our field.

Robert F. Keating

Neil R. Malhotra, MD

Residency: University of Pennsylvania (2009)

I received your request for nominations for membership in the YNC and immediately thought of Dr. Neil Malhotra who joined our faculty 2 years ago, having trained here at Penn. He has already made significant institutional contributions in broadly improving patient care in an extremely collegial manner. I consider him a rising star with the rare combination of academic talent, surgical skill and well developed interpersonal competence. I asked him to prepare a statement and I have included that in this email.

Sean Grady

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Virgilio Matheus, MD

Residency: Cleveland Clinic (2013)

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Virgilio Matheus since October 2007 when he joined our program as a junior resident, after performing two years of general surgery training in Philadelphia. Dr. Matheus is a native of Caracas-Venezuela, the country where he attended medical school, accumulating a number of honors. Virgilio is a mature, bright, energetic, hardworking, reliable and most pleasant individual who, thanks to his commitment and determination, was able to secure a position in the neurosurgical field which remains extremely competitive for foreign medical grads. During his early years he demonstrated great knowledge and skills fulfilling everyone's expectations. Once he progressed with his training he continued to demonstrate a great level of leadership and work ethic which awarded him in 2010 the chairman's award for resident of the year at our program. More recently during his senior years he has dedicated time and effort to the research field and was awarded the CNS spine Synthes award for his promising results in the spinal cord injury arena. All these features combined with his demographic background makes him an asset for the YNC where he can verbalize and express the feelings and concerns of all newly emerging neurosurgeons with a wide understanding of the possible concerns and needs of the expanding group of foreign medical grads present in the neurosurgical field.

Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez

Martin Mazyar Mortazavi Shemirani, MD

Residency: University of Alabama (2012)

I was born in Karlskoga, Sweden to Persian parents. I graduated from the Karolinska Institute, School of Medicine, and received my postgraduate diploma in sports medicine at Umeå University in Sweden. Prior to my residency, I completed two internships, one in Sweden, and a surgical internship at the University of Florida. In 2005, I completed an orthopedic residency with an intra-residency spine fellowship at the Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden and became a board certified orthopedic surgeon. I completed a post doctoral research fellowship in neuronal regeneration at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, and began a neurosurgery residency at University of Alabama at Birmingham and will be a PGY6 in July 2011.

I hold an ongoing interest in research and education. During medical school, I taught Anatomy and Histology at the Karolinska Institute, Department of Neurosciences, and in 2004 served as the clinical instructor of spinal surgery at the Karolinska Institute. I have authored and co-authored various publications in neurosurgery with around 30 publications so far and am an ad hoc reviewer.

During my career in medicine, I have received many awards including the AANS/CNS Spine Award in 2009 for research in neuronal regeneration. My area of special clinical interest is cerebrovascular and skull base surgery.

Additionally, I am a classical pianist and composer of my own music. I am an avid soccer player and enjoy fine arts, history, and philosophy. I speak five languages including English, Swedish, Persian, Spanish and Norwegian.

In summary: I have gone through 2 residencies with all that it entails and understand the needs of young neurosurgeons from a resident as well as an attending's perspectives.

Since I am active in research and education, I understand the ongoing and accelerating needs for further and focused education. My international background makes me suitable to understand the need for furthering international integration and exchange of experience and education over the borders.

Self-Nomination

Edjah Kweku-Ebura Nduom, MD

Residency: Emory University (2013)

I am writing in support of Dr Edjah Nduom's candidacy for the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr Nduom is an outstanding, hardworking and enterprising resident who is reliable. He has been involved in leadership activities consistently throughout his young career, most recently serving a term as President of the Medical Student Government at the University of Pennsylvania and representing the Department of Neurosurgery in the Emory House staff Organization. He is highly regarded by the neurosurgical faculty and is an exemplar to his peers.

Academically, he was the first recipient of our competitive NIH R25 Research Development Grant, and he will begin an eight month fellowship with the Surgical Neurology Branch at the National Institutes of Health in July. In addition to his academic pedigree, Edjah is a fine, upstanding citizen who we are proud to have represent us as a candidate from the Emory Department of Neurosurgery. He is a pleasant colleague, and he is well liked by his fellow residents and the faculty. I had the pleasure of attending his recent wedding, and it was clear that he has earned the respect of the people he has encountered throughout his development into the young man he has become.

I give my highest recommendation to Dr Nduom for the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee, and am confident that he has the drive, initiative, fortitude and talent to be a strong member of this committee as a major step in what promises to be career in organized Neurosurgery that we can all be proud of.

Nelson M Oyesiku

I am writing to self nominate for a position on the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Like all of the other residents in

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training across the United States, I have spent the majority of my life preparing for the opportunity just to be counted as a member of this esteemed profession. As I near the completion of my training, I feel strongly that now is the time to start giving back to the profession that has already been so generous to me.

Whether through the opportunities I have had to present my work at the AANS and CNS meetings, or through the many resident courses put together by the AANS, I feel blessed to be in a specialty that dedicates so much time to the development of its younger members. I hope that by attaining a position on this committee, I can continue to help our organization stay relevant to our younger members and keep our trainees engaged.

I plan to do this by helping to highlight existing Young Neurosurgeons Committee programs, like the Top Gun Competition, but I also hope to start new initiatives. For example, I would like to organize regional get-togethers for residents by collaborating with the Society of Neurological Surgeons to schedule events to coincide with the Neurosurgery PGY1 Boot camp courses across the U.S.

I hope to be given an opportunity to serve you all in this capacity, and I look forward to contributing to the growth of our profession.

Self-Nomination

I am writing to nominate Edjah Nduom, M.D. as a prospective member of the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. I have no doubt that he would be an indispensable member of this committee. As someone who has worked in organized neurosurgery for my entire career, I can say without reservation that Edjah has the qualities needed to be an effective leader within our field.

When we interviewed Edjah for our program, we were impressed with the leadership experience he had accumulated thus far. Whether serving as an Undergraduate Senator while at Stanford University, serving on the National Board of his fraternity or being elected President of the Student Body of his medical school, he has repeatedly shown the drive to earn the respect of his peers and serve in positions of leadership.

Beyond these titles, Edjah understands the meaning of hard work. He has shown in and outside of the hospital that he is willing to work toward the benefit of the team. He has repeatedly stepped up to plug holes in our resident call schedule when needed. He participated in many sports throughout high school, and this is evident in his team-based approach to collaboration on service. He understands that there is a time to lead and a time to follow, and he is adept at both.

In short, I nominate Dr. Nduom with great enthusiasm for the potential he has shown us thus far.

Daniel L. Barrow

David Matthew Neils, MD

Residency: University of Illinois/Peoria (2013)

I am writing to nominate Dr. David Matthew Neils, M.D. for involvement in the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr. Neils is our incoming PGY 5 resident and has expressed interest in becoming more involved in organized national neurosurgery. He has actively pursued research projects during his time as a resident at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. Also, during his time in Peoria, he has had to take on responsibilities within the residency program that have been above typical expectations for his current PGY, and has excelled.

Dr. Neils has been an active member of the neurosurgery resident staff as we worked to switch from a call based inpatient coverage format to a night float based call system. He has taken an active role in writing prospective research protocols for our institution and enrolling patients in ongoing trials. He has served as a resident member of a neuroscience quality improvement project at our primary hospital. In his role as a member of the QI initiative as well as in resident administrative roles, Dr. Neils has worked to actively improve the lives of our residents as well as the care we deliver to our patients.

It is because of Dr. Neils' initiative and willingness to take on both leadership roles and additional projects that I can whole-heartedly endorse him to serve as a member of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee with great hopes of transitioning into future leadership roles in organized neurosurgery.

Daniel R. Fassett

Francisco A. Ponce, MD

Residency: St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center (2011)

I would like to nominate our outstanding Chief Resident Dr. Francisco A. Ponce for a position on the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. He is finishing his residency at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona this year and will be joining us as faculty to pursue his interests in clinical and translational functional neurosurgery.

Dr. Ponce is a tremendous, dynamic physician-scientist who would bring a wealth of personal assets to the YNC. Dr. Ponce excelled as a resident here at the Barrow, completing an in-training fellowship in functional neurosurgery with Dr. Andreas Lozano in Toronto, as well as in-house subspecialty concentrations in radiosurgery and functional neurosurgery with Drs. Andrew Shetter and Kris Smith, and complex spine surgery with Dr. Volker Sonntag.

His academic productivity has been excellent. Dr. Ponce has 32 peer-reviewed publications, including 12 first-author publications, 7 abstracts, 10 comments, 5 chapters, 14 posters, and 13 presentations. I have personally collaborated with him on a number of clinical vascular projects, each of which has raised my regard for his work even further.

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As an individual, he is brilliant, thoughtful, goal-oriented, and collegial. He is the sort of person who you would be just as likely to pick to tackle a difficult tumor as to ask to escort a visiting US Senator. We expect him to be a leader here at the BNI, a leader in functional neurosurgery, and a leader in organized neurosurgery.

Peter Nakaji

Elias B. Rizk, MD

Residency: Pennsylvania State University (2012)

I would like to nominate Elias Rizk, MD. Elias will be one of our Chief Residents at Penn State starting in July. He is a very bright, hardworking resident who has won many awards for his research, including the annual research award of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery and the Pediatric Section Annual Research prize. He is also the recipient of an NREF Young Investigator Award.

Robert E. Harbaugh

Christopher Daniel Roark, MD

Residency: University of Minnesota (2011)

It is our pleasure to nominate Christopher Roark, M.D., for the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Chris earned his BA and MD from the University of Kansas, where he received numerous awards. He joined our residency program in neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota, in 2006, and is currently completing his year as Chief Resident.

During his residency, Chris has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Zhao Zi-Zhen Award for excellence both as a clinician and technical surgeon, and for teaching with skill and enthusiasm.

Out of an abiding interest in evidence-based practice, Chris simultaneously completed the coursework for a Masters degree in Clinical Research while pursuing his residency in neurosurgery. His research interest focuses on neurosurgical hemorrhage, and its relationship to the use of pharmacologic prophylaxis against venous thromboembolism. This interest led to a first-author publication on the topic in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* (2009), and serves as the focus of his Master's dissertation. Chris intends to leverage his research focus to improve care of patients with a heavy burden of both neurosurgical and non-neurosurgical disease.

Chris has accepted an offer from Dr. Greg Thompson (University of Michigan), to complete a fellowship in cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery, but will delay this training for two years while his wife completes her training.

Although unconventional, Chris has accepted an interim job that is based both at Hennepin County Medical Center--a major teaching site for our program--and a private practice in Minneapolis. This position will afford Chris a unique view of neurosurgery, as his patients will span the socioeconomic spectrum. A voice in national neurosurgery with such experience will help our specialty navigate the socio-political uncertainty surrounding how healthcare will be delivered over the course of his neurosurgical generation. Chris is an excellent candidate for the Young Neurosurgeons Committee.

**Aviva Abosch
Stephen J. Haines**

Mohammed Farid Shamji, MD PhD

Residency: University of Ottawa (2011)

Fellowship: Spine Surgery, University of Calgary (2012)

I would like to nominate Dr Mohammed Shamji B.Sc. M.Sc. M.D. Ph.D. FRCSC for membership on this committee.

Dr Shamji has just completed his training in the University of Ottawa Neurosurgery Training Program, and recently obtained Canadian certification in the specialty. His Curriculum Vitae attests to his very extensive scholarly training, and his commitment to academic neurosurgery. He has degrees from Yale University (B.Sc. and M.Sc.), Queen's University (M.D.) as well as Duke University (Ph.D.), and is the lead author or major contributor to over 40 peer-reviewed publications, 4 book chapters, with several papers in press.

Having recruited Mohammed to our program when I was Program Director and Chair, I can confidently state that his outgoing pleasing personality, his teaching abilities and his ability to work cooperatively with others, would make him an excellent member of the AANS committee.

Brien G. Benoit

Robert M. Starke, MD MSc

Residency: University of Virginia (2016)

I would like to nominate Bobby Starke M.D. M.Sc. for the young neurosurgeons committee. I worked with Bobby Starke during his time as a medical student at Columbia University and currently during his residency at UVA. As a medical student he attracted more than 20 medical students to our laboratory under Dr. Connolly. He often had a group of 7-10 medical students working under him on various projects. He has continued this at UVA. His list of over than 60 publications, 25 invited podium presentations, 7 book chapters, numerous neurosurgical awards is quite impressive for a second year neurosurgery resident. He reviews for a number of neurosurgical journals and helps on the AANS Education

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Committee and is a Congress of Neurological Surgeons SANS Editor. Additionally, he is working on a number of national neurosurgical educational projects including *The Use of Videos in Neurosurgical Training*, *In-training factors that are predictive of an academic career path and academic success in Neurosurgery* on behalf of the Research Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and *Identification of Knowledge Gaps in Neurosurgery Through Analysis of Responses to the Self Assessment in Neurological Surgery (SANS)*.

In short, Bobby is an academic powerhouse. I have no doubt that he would exceed all your expectations and become an extraordinarily beneficial member of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, helping to attract students to the field and help foster further collaborations within neurosurgery.

Ric Komotar

Khoi Duc Than, MD

Residency: University of Michigan Medical Center (2014)

I would like to submit Dr Khoi Than for your consideration to the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr Than is a graduate of Johns Hopkins College of Medicine and is currently a 4th year neurosurgery resident and research fellow in University of Michigan Spine Research Laboratory. Dr Than has received several academic honors including the Michael Bloomberg Scholarship (Johns Hopkins University), National Society of Collegiate Scholars Merit Award, Phi Beta Kappa, and the John E McGillicuddy Resident teaching award. Since beginning his residency Dr Than has distinguished himself as a leader amongst his peers with an enthusiastic interest in organized neurosurgery. Dr Than has served on numerous committees within the University and has authored 19 peer reviewed articles and numerous book chapters. In addition to the above mentioned qualifications, Dr Than is a dear friend and I can think of no one else who would serve the AANS YNS committee with enthusiasm, honor, and integrity. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Shawn Level Hervey-Jumper

Eric Michael Thompson, MD

Residency: Oregon Health & Science University (2013)

It is a pleasure to nominate Dr. Eric Thompson, a rising PGY6 resident at Oregon Health & Science University, for membership on the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee. Dr. Thompson is a superb clinical resident who has excelled in every portion of residency training, including clinical and operative skills, basic research (on animal models of cerebral metastases as well as nanoparticle imaging agents in brain tumors), clinical research (tumor surgery and pediatric neurosurgery outcomes), and service leadership. He has just been appointed as a CSNS Socioeconomic Fellow. Eric has a number of excellent publications. He is a superb presenter and carries himself well above his years in leadership and public speaking settings. He plans to pursue a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship and academic neurosurgery. He will be strongly considered for a faculty appointment at our institution, and likely at numerous others. Dr. Thompson has all the ingredients for success as a leader in neurosurgical practice and I recommend him in the highest terms to you. I think the AANS would be proud to have him as part of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee.

Nathan R. Selden

Luke Tomycz, MD

Residency: Vanderbilt University (2013)

I would like to nominate Luke Tomycz, PGY-5 Neurosurgery resident at Vanderbilt University for the Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC). Over the next few paragraphs, I would like to present a case for why I feel Luke would be an excellent addition to the YNC.

Over the past 5 years, I have been fortunate to work extensively with Luke. It has been a privilege. Luke is one of the most genuine individuals I have met—in or out of medicine. His heart truly is with his patients. Throughout his medical career, Luke has been involved with multiple medical missions trips—many of these put together by himself. His interests in both the state of healthcare of our nation and in global health crises will serve the YNC well.

Luke is a physician-scientist. Since his time as an undergraduate at MIT, he has been involved in numerous research projects. Recently, he was honored during the 2010 CNS for presenting one of the “Top Ten Abstracts” on clinical research he has done with open thoracic cordotomy. Luke has completed an infolded endovascular fellowship at Vanderbilt and will be applying for pediatric fellowships following completion of residency. Formal training in both endovascular techniques and pediatric neurosurgery will provide excellent preparation for a career in pediatric cerebrovascular neurosurgery—the focus of his current clinical research.

Luke is an educator. Recently, Luke was honored by medical students at Vanderbilt University for both his willingness and ability to teach. These traits will serve him well during his career in academic medicine.

Luke and I have spoken extensively about the opportunities that lie ahead in the YNC. I strongly feel that he would be an outstanding representation of the YNC and would like to wholeheartedly nominate Luke Tomycz for this position.

Jonathan A. Forbes

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Cheerag Dipakkumar Upadhyaya, MD

Residency: University of Michigan (2009)

Fellowship: Spine Surgery, UCSF (2010)

This statement serves to nominate Cheerag Upadhyaya, MD, MSc to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee. He completed a Fellowship in Spine Surgery with Praveen Mummaneni, M.D. at the UCSF Department of Neurosurgery after his neurosurgery residency at the University of Michigan, under the mentorships of Dr. Julian Hoff and Dr. Karin Muraszko.

Cheerag has a long record of leadership in organized medicine / surgery, ranging from his service as President of the U Michigan House Officer Association to that as an active member of the U Michigan Ethics Committee. His experience led to further participation on the Graduate Medical Education Committee and the Executive Committee for Clinical Affairs. Cheerag's leadership also extends to his accomplishments in his academic pursuits: among others, he was awarded a position in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute / National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program and in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. More recently, he was awarded the 2011 Spine & Peripheral Nerve Section Meeting, Outcomes Committee Award.

Working with individuals and with organizations is native to his calm easygoing personality, in the context of his focused thoughtful goals. His past experience and continued interest in the investigation of socioeconomic issues in medicine will be of value to the organization. If elected, he will promote early participation of young neurosurgeons in the national neurosurgery committee structure, and he will undoubtedly be an excellent representative for all young neurosurgeons within organized neurosurgery.

Lynda J-S Yang

Ashwin Viswanathan, MD

Residency: Baylor College of Medicine (2009)

Fellowship: Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Oregon Health & Science University (2010)

I would like to nominate my colleague Dr. Ashwin Viswanathan, to serve on the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC).

Dr. Viswanathan completed his undergraduate degree at MIT, and then medical school at Baylor College of Medicine. He then graduated from the Baylor Neurosurgery Residency Program, under the tutelage of Dr. Raymond Sawaya, in June 2009. As a resident, he was recognized as natural leader among his peers, and as an outstanding and generous teacher. He served with distinction as an elected member of the Baylor College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Council. For his outstanding performance as a resident, he received the Kinjiro Iwata, M.D. Academic Award in 2008, and the Baylor College of Medicine Neurosurgery Leadership Award in 2009.

Dr. Viswanathan then went on to a year of fellowship in Stereotactic, Functional and Pain Neurosurgery at OHSU with Dr. Kim Burchiel. After completing this fellowship in June 2010, he returned to Houston where he now serves as Assistant Professor and Director of Functional Neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine and the MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has already assumed a leadership role in running the residency program's didactic lecture series, and has quickly developed a successful subspecialty academic practice.

One of Dr. Viswanathan's true passions is international neurosurgery education, particularly in underserved countries. Under the mentorship of Dr. Merwyn Bagan and FIENS, he has served as a neurosurgical volunteer in separate trips to Nepal, Ethiopia, Peru, and Vietnam. He has chronicled these experiences in articles in both the AANS Newsletter, and in World Neurosurgery. For this work, he received the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Public Service Citation in 2009.

Dr. Viswanathan is a quiet leader, one who leads with his actions. He is not only talented, but also sincere, modest and efficient. He get along well with everyone he encounters, and gets things done effectively and without a fuss. He would be an asset to the leadership of the AANS.

Daniel Yoshor

I would enthusiastically support this nomination. I can think of no better representative for young neurosurgeons than Dr. Viswanathan.

Kim J. Burchiel

I am fully supportive of this nomination as well. Dr Viswanathan is a fine individual with tremendous leadership abilities.

Raymond Sawaya