The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization created in 1980 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives. For more information about NREF, please visit www.nref.org.
NREF Stewardship Report

2016 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

RESEARCH – GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

NREF awarded the following grants and fellowships in 2016:

- **20 Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships**, including 10 made possible by a generous contribution from Aaron A. Cohen-Gadol, MD, FAANS of royalties from the sale of the COHEN™ Bipolar Forceps from Kirwan Surgical Products
- **9 NREF Research Grants and Young Clinician Investigator Awards** in spine, tumor, pediatrics, pain, and cerebrovascular subspecialties
- **9 Post-residency Clinical Fellowships (PRCF)**, including the first pediatric and oncology fellowships awarded since the inception of the PRCF in 2010
- **1 William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship** award of $120,000, plus expenses

The NREF has announced a new award for **Advance Practice Providers** (APPs). 2 $500 awards will be given to the best APP abstracts at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting.

EDUCATION – COURSES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The NREF sponsored **7 Resident Courses** in 2016. These free courses are offered to neurosurgical residents and fellows to provide advanced educational training. The NREF also expanded its informational and educational offerings with a **complimentary webinar series** on fluorescence-guided surgery.

The NREF held the **first International Brain Mapping Course** in collaboration with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) with an international faculty from major brain mapping centers in Europe, North America and Asia on advances, advantages and practical issues in contemporary pre-operative and intra-operative brain mapping applications in brain tumor and functional neurosurgery. This gathering is now available as an **online course** on www.nref.org.

The NREF sponsored a **Neurocritical Care Symposium** for practicing neurosurgeons, to fill practice and knowledge gaps they may encounter post-training as the state of neurocritical care is evolving. The symposium was held in September in conjunction with the Western Neurosurgical Society’s Annual Meeting.

OUTCOMES

The NREF Board of Directors announced an award of $80,000 to the **NeuroPoint Alliance** (NPA) in support of a joint study with the **Institute for Healthcare Improvement** (IHI), to develop, test, and implement an approach to improving outcomes for spine surgery patients.
PARTNERSHIPS

B*CURED, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end brain cancer, and NREF jointly presented the $50,000 B*CURED-NREF Research Grant, funded by B*CURED, to Jamie Purzner, MD of Stanford University for Exploring the Epigenetic Regulation of Neuronal Differentiation to Differentiate Medulloblastoma Cells.

HONOR YOUR MENTOR FUNDS

The NREF established the Honor Your Mentor (HYM) Funds to celebrate the mentors of neurosurgery. In 2014, there were 6 HYM funds with total pledges of $177,195 from 37 donors. By the close of 2015, there were 22 funds representing $1,182,225 in pledges from 257 donors.

There are now 27 HYM funds; an additional 8 funds are pending. Pledges to HYM funds now total $2,532,380 from 483 donors. Current HYM Fund honorees include:

| A. Leland Albright | Regis W. Haid Jr. | Karin M. Muraszko |
| Roy Bakay | John A. Jane Sr. | Andrew Parsa |
| Ulrich Batzdorf | David L. Kelly Jr. | Donald O. Quest |
| Edward C. Benzel | David Kline | Albert Rhoton Jr. |
| Warren C. Boop Jr. | Charles Kuntz IV | James T. Rutka |
| Charles L. Branch Sr. | Sanford Larson | Volker K. H. Sonntag |
| Edward S. Connolly | Edward Laws | Philip E. Stieg |
| Charles Drake | Lyal G. Leibrock | Charles Tator |
| Stewart Dunsker | Military Heroes | Martin H. Weiss |

The NREF is pleased to recognize the leadership role taken by the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine in their financial support of $500,000 toward 5 NREF HYM Funds: Stewart Dunsker; Regis Haid Jr.; Charles Kuntz IV; Sanford Larson; and Volker K. H. Sonntag. This vote of confidence to invest in HYM Funds demonstrates the section’s commitment to their research and educational goals.

Proceeds from the 2015 Columbia University Charity Softball Tourney ($75,000) and a $500,000 pledge from Brainlab were directed to the Andrew Parsa HYM Fund.

CUSHING CIRCLE OF GIVING

Welcome to the newest members of the Cushing Circle of Giving:

Individuals:

| Dr. P. David Adelson | Dr. Raymond Sawaya | Dr. G. Edward Vates |
| Dr. Arvind Ahuja | Dr. Volker K. H. Sonntag | Dr. Ahmet Yildizhan |
| Dr. Lawrence Chin | Dr. Robert Spetzler | Dr. Mario Zuccarello |
| Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol | Dr. Ann Stroink | |
| Dr. Mark Kubala | Dr. Roland Torres | |

Institutions:

- Cleveland Clinic
- Louisiana Neurosurgical Society (LANS)
- New England Neurosurgical Society
- University of Pennsylvania Department of Neurosurgery
NEWS AND NOTES

- Other notable donors: Arvind Ahuja, MD, FAANS, was welcomed into the Cushing Circle of Giving at the Platinum level and Ann R. Stroink, MD, FAANS, at the Silver level; Dr. and Mrs. Russel H. Patterson, Jr., and Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD, FAANS were elevated to the Gold level and Robert Heary, MD, FAANS to the Silver Level; a bequest from the estate of Janusz Subczynski, MD is forthcoming; the Bagan Family Foundation’s support of two (2) fully-funded future Research Grants; and a group of Chinese neurosurgeons collectively donated $8,000 to the Albert L. Rhoton Fund.

- The first annual, limited-edition Rhoton Collection® calendar, sponsored by ZEISS, debuted at the 2016 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting and was extremely well-received by members.

- New donation options include: Memorials and Tributes via Legacy.com; Retail through AmazonSmile and iGive.com; and Charitable Planning Strategies, including bequests, trusts and annuities.

- The Young Neurosurgeons Circle of Giving, a giving society for residents, was created with the goal of increasing donations over their lifetime and eventual membership in the NREF’s premier recognition society, the Cushing Circle of Giving.

- NREF has a column in AANS Neurosurgeon and in the AANS E-News with regular updates on NREF activities and accomplishments.

- The Inaugural Charity Bean Bag Tournament, hosted by the NREF, is planned for Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25, 2017 in the Exhibit Hall and Learning Center during the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Los Angeles, with proceeds benefiting neurosurgical education and research through the NREF.

- Pinnacle Partners in Neurosurgery: The NREF gratefully acknowledges Brainlab, Codman Neuro, DePuy/Synthes, Globus, Integra, Medtronic, Synaptive, Varian Medical Systems, and ZEISS for their commitment to advance neurosurgery and important areas such as research, education, and training.

- “I give to the NREF to improve the care I can offer my patients; I give to the NREF to help expand the scientific curiosity of the best and brightest young physicians; I give to the NREF to advance the science and understanding of nature that we all need to know; I give to the NREF because I love my profession. Please give to the NREF – for your patients, for the future, and for neurosurgery.”

Gary M. Bloomgarden, MD, FAANS