

UPDATE

neurosurgery

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House Committee Takes Important Step Forward Regarding Concussion Awareness

Neurosurgeons Applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee for Hosting Concussion Roundtable

Washington, DC—The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) commend the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee for launching a [broad review](#) surrounding the causes, effects and treatments for concussions. We are hopeful that today's [initial roundtable](#) — which brought together experts from the medical, military, athletic and research communities — will increase collaboration and expand the body of knowledge to help improve the diagnosis and treatments of concussions.

[Geoffrey T. Manley](#), MD, PhD, FAANS, past-chair of the [AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care](#), Chief of Neurosurgery at San Francisco General Hospital and Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of California at San Francisco, participated in the roundtable. An internationally recognized expert in neurotrauma, Dr. Manley understands the importance of neurosurgeons taking a lead role in the prevention, management and treatment of traumatic brain injury. Committed to improving the science of concussions, Dr. Manley serves a principal investigator for the NIH-funded, multicenter Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in Traumatic Brain Injury — or TRACK-TBI — study.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), each year in the United States, at least 1.7 million people suffer a traumatic brain injury, and it is a contributing factor in one-third of all injury-related deaths. An estimated 3.2 to 5.3 million people live with the long-term physical, cognitive and psychological health disabilities of TBI, at an annual cost of more than \$76 billion.

Neurosurgeons have long been involved in the diagnosis and care of individuals with brain-related injuries, and the specialty's neurotrauma experts are furthering knowledge on concussions through clinical and basic science research. Additionally, the profession has helped shaped current guidelines for the evaluation and treatment of TBI and is actively involved in developing public policy related to TBI and concussions. Given the magnitude of the issue and the impact on society, the AANS and CNS launched a Neurosurgery Blog series called "[Hard Knocks](#)" and neurosurgeons work closely with the [ThinkFirst](#) National Injury Prevention Foundation.

"Organized neurosurgery is steadfast in our commitment to raise awareness about concussions to ensure the safety of the public," said Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, FACS, FAANS, a neurosurgeon from Danville, Penn. and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. "We applaud the leadership of Energy and Commerce Committee chairman, Fred Upton, as well as Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee chair, Tim Murphy, for their leadership on the issue of concussions and believe today's roundtable is a positive step in the right direction."

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The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org or www.neurosurgeryblog.org.