

## 4th Quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology

By Nicholas Butowski, MD

Time is quickly approaching for the 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology held in conjunction with the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology that will take place November 21-24, 2013 in San Francisco, California. Compliments to meeting chair, Dr. Mitchel Berger, for composing a comprehensive program highlighting cutting-edge laboratory and clinical research. The meeting promises to be an exceptional environment for exchange of ideas among clinical and laboratory scientists involved in the research, diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with central nervous system tumors.

The meeting will build on the traditional SNO format presenting top-scoring abstracts and invited meet-the-expert sessions. The Education Day on Thursday, November 21 from 8am - 5pm is entitled "From Drug Discovery to Clinic" and will address the various aspects of clinical development of agents that range from preclinical testing, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic considerations, first in man studies, and the challenges of phase 0-III clinical trials. Concurrent sessions will address the specific challenges of clinical design and specific pathways that are being evaluated in the preclinical arena. Also featured will be a Quality of Life Session with modules focused on Palliative Care, Symptom Management, and Pediatric Quality of Life. That night, the meeting commences with the SNO Welcome Reception.



The 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology will be held in San Francisco, California.

The Scientific Meeting begins Friday, November 22, with sunrise sessions starting at 7am, followed by the start of the first general session. The four Sunrise Sessions will be on the following topics:

- Session 1: Maximal Safe Resection of Glioma - Current Techniques.
- Session 2: Pediatric Genomics Update.
- Session 3: Innovative QOL Programs in the Clinic Setting.
- Session 4: Metabolic Imaging.

After the sunrise sessions, the first plenary session will begin with an official meeting welcome by Dr. Mitchel Berger followed the Victor Levin Lecture by Monika Hegi and Roger Stupp. Up next is the Presidential Address by Dr. Kenneth Aldape followed by the EANO Keynote Address by Stefan Pfister, MD, PhD, entitled *Translating next generation diagnostics into next generation treatment*. We look forward to a Young Investigators Roundtable Luncheon at noon on Friday (Pre-registration via SNO website required). Afternoon concurrent sessions include 1) Pathology and Genomic 2) Adult Clinical Sciences. The next set of concurrent sessions includes 1) Angiogenesis and Invasion 2) Pediatric Clinical Sciences. Friday evening, a special "Townhall Meeting" is planned that will review the results of the recent international randomized phase III trials evaluating the use of antiangiogenic strategies for newly diagnosed and recurrent glioblastoma session. This special session will provide a forum for open and interactive discussion about how these results may impact clinical care and efforts for further research.

Continued on page 5

### Highlights of this issue...

President's Message.....	2
Public Service, Levin and Guha Awards .....	3
Lunch Sessions at WFNO Meeting.....	4
Treasurer's Report .....	5
Neuro-Oncology Editor in Chief.....	5
New Journal Launched.....	6
Membership Report.....	7
New SNO Officers.....	8

## From the President

Dear Colleagues:



Kenneth Aldape

As the outgoing President, I am happy to share with you some of the Society's accomplishments and endeavors during my tenure. To begin with, SNO continues to grow with an overall increase in membership of 11% since October 2012, with current membership now approaching 1500 and representation from 42 countries.

I am likewise happy to share that the impact factor of the Society's official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, continues to rise, and now stands at 6.1, solidifying its reputation as the leading journal in the field. Its success is, in large part, due to the dedication of the editor-in-chief, W K Alfred Yung, who is stepping down at the end of this year. Dr. Yung has set high-quality standards for the journal which I am certain the new editor-in-chief, Patrick Wen, will continue. We also look forward to the publication of our new journal entitled *Neuro-Oncology Practice* which will be edited by Dr. Susan Chang and a cadre of respected international colleagues. We would like to thank the SNO membership for continuing to send manuscripts containing significant findings to *Neuro-Oncology*, which is an essential part of making the journal a great success.

Another major accomplishment of SNO during the past two years has been our success in collaborating with other organizations with similar goals. In addition to our joint meeting with the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS, we have hosted jointly organized education sessions with the American Academy of Neurology at our respective meetings. We have also worked with the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the National Brain Tumor Society on several important initiatives to advance basic and translational pediatric research.

I am pleased to announce some exciting developments for the November 2013 meeting in San Francisco which of course is a World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Meeting, bringing together members of SNO, the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO), and the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO). There were 956 abstracts submitted for the WFNO meeting – a record tally. Meeting chair, Mitchel Berger, with the help of Susan Chang and Russell Pieper, has created a wide-ranging and engaging program that builds on the traditional SNO format presenting top-scoring abstracts, and invited meet-the-expert sessions. Naturally, the meeting will be preceded by the education day entitled "From Drug Discovery to Clinic;" which will also feature a Quality of Life Session with modules focused on Palliative Care, Symptom

Management, and Pediatric Quality of Life. In anticipation of the meeting, I look forward to the Victor Levin Lecture by Monika Hegi and Roger Stupp followed by Keynote speakers selected by each of three societies: Frank McCormick (SNO), Do-Hyun Nam (ASNO) and Stefan Pfister (EANO).

Today, our Society stands on the threshold of dramatic new discoveries in the field of neuro-oncology. So that SNO is well positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead, a group of key SNO members representing a range of disciplines participated in a two-day retreat with the goal of charting a course for the next chapter in our organization's evolution. This productive effort resulted in a forward looking strategic plan that will help us to achieve our organizational objectives over the next five years. I am excited that President-elect David Reardon will take the helm to work on these initiatives in an effort to make SNO serve its membership in the best way possible.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge some of the individuals who have made SNO a success and by extension furthered the development of neuro-oncology as a field. First, much appreciation goes to the SNO Foundation members Mark Gilbert (chair), Mitchel Berger, Susan Chang and Victor Levin and members of the Partners Advisory Council for their continued support and guidance as the Society continues to grow. I would also like to recognize the members of the Board of Directors for their willingness to represent the diverse disciplines of the neuro-oncology community and for their input into critical aspects of operating the Society.

Thanks go to Jan Esenwein, Linda Greer, Megan Bell and Kristin Odom for their administrative support, and especially to Chas Haynes for his outstanding leadership as Executive Director of SNO. This team provides the continuity needed to allow smooth transitions between leadership periods and maintains a cohesive infrastructure for the Society. A volunteer spirit and a willingness to contribute is what makes SNO thrive and I strongly encourage members to take an active role in SNO committees to bring new perspectives and to strengthen the group overall.

As I finish my term, I thank all the members of SNO for your support throughout the past two years. I end my term confident that SNO will continue to lead the way and provide a model of cooperation that will ultimately result in improved outcome and quality of life for patients with CNS tumors.

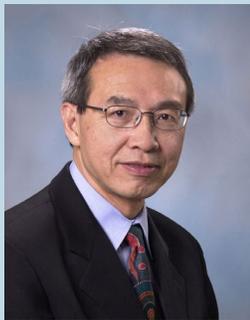
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Aldape".

Kenneth Aldape, MD  
SNO President

## SNO Honors W K Alfred Yung with 2013 Public Service Award

The SNO Board of Directors is pleased to announce that W K Alfred Yung has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 SNO Public Service Award. This award recognizes a meritorious individual who has made significant contributions to the field of neuro-oncology and advanced the mission of the Society.



W K Alfred Yung

The SNO Public Service Award seeks to honor those who have increased public awareness of brain cancer, advanced advocacy, promoted legislative action, or have otherwise supported the mission of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

The SNO Board was unanimous in agreeing that Dr. Yung should receive this award in recognition for his many years of service to SNO in his capacity as Editor in Chief of the Society's official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*. During his seven year tenure, Dr. Yung successfully guided the journal in its transition to Oxford University Press, increased publication frequency from four to twelve issues per year and most recently lead the journal to an Impact Factor of 6.108, its highest ranking to date.

Dr. Yung will receive the SNO Public Service award during the opening plenary session of the upcoming WFNO meeting on November 22, 2013, in San Francisco, California.

## 2013 Victor Levin Award & Lecture

The Victor Levin Award recognizes a career commitment to neuro-oncology displaying leadership and innovation leading to extraordinary achievements in the field.

This year, this prestigious award will be given to Roger Stupp and Monica Hegi in recognition of their seminal work that has contributed to the current standard of



Monica Hegi

care for GBM and resulted in significant improvements in patient survival.

Drs. Stupp and Hegi will deliver a plenary lecture on Friday, November 22, at the 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology in San Francisco, California.



Roger Stupp

## 2013 Abhijit Guha Award & Lecture

The Society for Neuro-Oncology and the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS are pleased to award the 2013 Abhijit Guha Award to Dr. Henry Brem. Dr. Brem is the Harvey Cushing Professor, Neurosurgeon-in-Chief and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Brem was selected for this award because he demonstrates the qualities exemplified by the late Abhijit Guha, including being an outstanding clinician with an active laboratory effort and an excellent track record of training fellows, residents, and students along with a strong interest in mentoring.



Henry Brem

This award, provided jointly by SNO and the Section on Tumors, acknowledges the importance of collaborations between the neurosurgical and brain tumor community in making advances in knowledge and treatment for these diseases. Dr. Brem will deliver the Abhijit Guha Lecture on Tuesday, October 22, at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in San Francisco, California.

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## Young Investigator and Career Development Sessions at WFNO/SNO

By Jason Huse, MD

Members are encouraged to note the following special sessions that will be held next month during the 4th Quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Meeting in San Francisco, California.

### Networking and Career Development Session

This innovative and exciting event returns for a second year and will take place Thursday evening, November 21, from 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Attendees will take part in an organized networking and mentoring session where each participant will have the opportunity to interact with many potential collaborators and mentors for brief, high-value exchanges that will form the basis of mutually beneficial professional relationships. The organized session will then transition to the WFNO/SNO Welcome Reception for more extensive follow-up conversations and informal social interaction. There is no charge for this event, however, you must specifically register to confirm your attendance. Space is limited, so those interested are encouraged to register via the SNO website as soon as possible.

### Young Investigators Round Table Luncheon

This popular lunch event features an opportunity to join senior experts in neuro-oncology for an informal round table lunch in one of the following table themes: Neurosurgery, Adult Neuro-Oncology, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, Basic Science, Translational Science and Radiation Oncology. The lunch will take place on Friday, November 22, from 12pm - 1pm. There is no charge for this event, however, you must register your participation and choose your table topic.

Note: While these event have been initiated by the SNO Young Investigators Committee, we would like to encourage members at all career levels to participate. Visit: [www.soc-neuro-onc.org](http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org) to register, or contact SNO registrar, Linda Greer, at [linda@soc-neuro-onc.org](mailto:linda@soc-neuro-onc.org).

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## International Outreach

All those interested in advancing neuro-oncology in developing regions of the world are welcome to attend this lunch time meeting. Rahul Krishnatry, current recipient of the SNO International Outreach Fellowship, will provide an update on his progress at Sick Kids Hospital.

This meeting will take place on Friday, November 22, from noon to 1:00pm, in Golden Gate C-1. RSVP is not required.

## Quality of Life Consensus Lunch

The goal of this meeting is to develop a consensus opinion regarding the content of SNO's Quality of Life (QOL) efforts. Results of the recent on-line QOL survey will be discussed, with the aim of developing a plan to meet the educational needs of SNO members at future QOL sessions.

This meeting will take place on Thursday, November 21, from 1:00pm-2:00pm in Yerba Buena 7. All are welcome, and RSVP is not required.

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## Allied Health Care Professional Networking Luncheon

Nurses, social workers, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, psychologists and those in related fields are invited to attend a lunch meeting for allied health professionals. Highlights of the lunch include:

- Discussing eblast communication about specific topics
- Meeting colleagues to collaborate with over the year
- Meeting allied health care professionals from other countries
- Considering new topics for upcoming meetings

The meeting will take place on Friday, November 22, from 12:00pm-1:00pm, in Nob Hill Room C. All are welcome, and RSVP is not required.

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## Mid-level Faculty Network and Leaders Luncheon

The goal of the gathering is to promote a culture of collaboration for mid-career investigators and to support a career trajectory that incorporates requisite experience for successful advancement to a senior level. Eligibility: A medical/scientific professional who has spent 3 years or more at the Assistant Professor level or is at the Associate Professor level.

This meeting will take place on Saturday, November 23, from 12:00pm-1:00pm, in Yerba Buena 1. RSVP required. Contact Nicholas Butowski, MD, at [Butowski@neurosurg.ucsf.edu](mailto:Butowski@neurosurg.ucsf.edu).

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## Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year Ending 2013

It is with great pleasure that I report that the Society for Neuro-Oncology's overall financial status remains solid and in good health.

Total revenue in our 2013 fiscal year was almost \$2.1 million, representing an increase of \$300,000 over fiscal year 2012. After factoring in expenses, the Society's change in net assets was \$172,000. SNO's main source of revenue remains our annual meeting which includes registration fees and financial support from several partners, including the Genentech, Merck, National Brain Tumor Foundation, Novocure, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the Sontag Foundation. SNO also receives income from membership dues and from a profit sharing arrangement with the publisher of our journal, Oxford University Press.

The journal continues to enjoy a healthy profitability. The Society is also generating new revenue streams by providing administrative support for external events, such as the International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology meeting and others.

Revenue generated by the Society's activities fund and maintain the SNO administrative office, the editorial office of *Neuro-Oncology*, SNO's international outreach efforts, as well as the costs associated with the SNO annual meeting, including travel scholarships, awards and initiatives for Young Investigators.

In all, the Society's financial health is sound and we are well positioned to support our educational mission.

More detailed financial information will be included in our Annual Report which will be made available to all members at the 2013 meeting in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD  
SNO Treasurer

## Neuro-Oncology Appoints New Editor-in-Chief

Patrick Wen has been appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Society's flagship journal, *Neuro-Oncology*. Dr. Wen is Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He was formerly Vice President of SNO and is currently Chair of the Neuro-oncology Section of the American Academy of Neurology. His research focuses on novel therapeutics for brain tumours and optimizing response assessment and trial designs.



Patrick Wen

Dr. Wen takes the reins of a publication that has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Dr. W. K. Alfred Yung who was appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Neuro-Oncology* in 2007. The journal's Founding Editor was Dr. Darell Bigner, who worked to establish *Neuro-Oncology* as the seminal publication in the field.

During Dr. Yung's tenure, the journal increased in frequency from four to six issues per year, and then again to twelve issues per year. In addition, Dr. Yung guided the journal's Impact Factor to an impressive 6.180, which puts *Neuro-Oncology* among the world's top oncology and neurology titles.

Professor Wen looks forward to working with the European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO), and the Japanese Society For Neuro-Oncology (JSNO) to build on the wonderful legacy of Dr. Yung, in making *Neuro-Oncology* the foremost journal in the field and advancing our mission of developing better treatments and improving the quality of life of brain tumour patients and patients with neurologic complications of cancer.

Dr. Wen's tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *Neuro-Oncology* officially begins with the January 2014 issue. *Neuro-Oncology* is published by Oxford University Press.

## SNO to Publish New Journal

Oxford University Press (OUP) and SNO are pleased to announce that they will be publishing a new journal, *Neuro-Oncology Practice*, beginning in 2014. The new journal will be edited by Dr. Susan Chang, Director of the Division of Neuro-Oncology at UCSF, in San Francisco.

The field of neuro-oncology focuses on the research and treatment of brain and spinal tumours. *Neuro-Oncology Practice* will cover applied neuro-oncology, filling a need for practical and educational content. This new journal will also provide the multidisciplinary field of neuro-oncology professionals, such as physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, palliative care specialists, and neuropsychologists, with clinical information to enhance patient care, quality of life, psycho-social support, and management of co-morbid conditions.

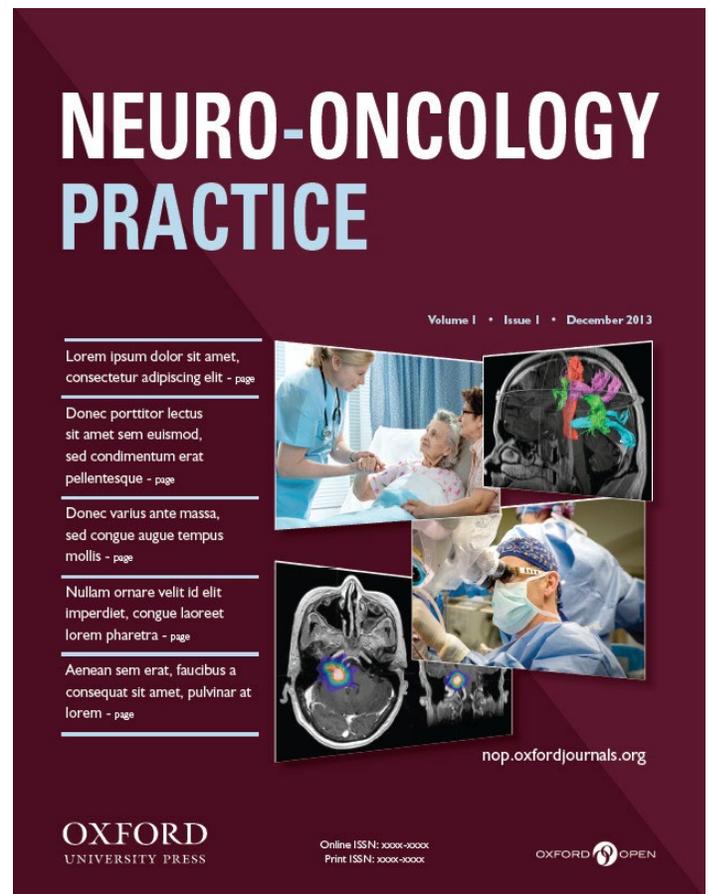


Susan Chang

Some of the aims of *Neuro-Oncology Practice* include:

- To apply new trial results to improve standards of patient care,
- To translate scientific advances, such as tumour molecular profiling and advanced imaging, into clinical treatment decision-making and personalized brain tumour therapies, and
- To raise awareness of basic, translational, and clinical research in areas of symptom management, survivorship, neurocognitive function, end of life issues, and caregiving.

The launch of this new title was made possible by a generous grant from the National Brain Tumor Society.



*Neuro-Oncology Practice* will be the sister journal to *Neuro-Oncology*, SNO's flagship publication, which OUP has published since 2010.

The editorial structure of *Neuro-Oncology Practice* will mirror that of *Neuro-Oncology*, with representation from SNO's sister societies in Europe and Asia.

## Neuro-Oncology Practice Editorial Leadership

Editor-in-Chief  
**Susan Chang**

ASNO Editor  
**Rakesh Jalali**

EANO Editor  
**Wolfgang Grisold**

SNO Editor  
**Jeffrey Wefel**

Saturday, November 23rd Sunrise Sessions feature the following topics:

- Session 1: WHO Classification of Tumors - Update
- Session 2: Overview of GWAS and Potential for International Collaboration
- Session 3: Immunological Strategies in Neuro-Oncology - Update
- Session 4: Assymetric Cell Division- Avenues for Research and Clinical Applications
- Session 5: Joint AAN Session: Controversies in Neuro-Oncology.

After the sessions a mini-symposium on Low Grade Gliomas will be held and then followed by the ASNO Keynote Address by Do-Hyun Nam, MD, PhD, entitled Personalized targeted therapeutics based on the genomic characterized patient derived model (Avatar) system. Up next, award winning abstracts will be presented and followed by the SNO Keynote address by Frank McCormick, PhD Director, entitled *New Ways of Targeting Ras*.

We look forward to a mid-level faculty leadership networking session at noon on Friday (Pre-registration via Dr Butowski required - Butowski@neurosurg.ucsf.edu) The first set of Saturday afternoon concurrent sessions are 1) Cell Biology and Signaling 2) Molecular Epidemiology and Biomarkers. The second set of concurrent sessions is 1) Pediatric Basic and Translational Research and 2) Neurocognitive Outcomes and Quality of Life. A poster session will take place after the oral sessions conclude for the day. That evening, the SNO Gala Dinner promises to be the social highlight of the meeting (Pre-purchased ticket required, see the SNO website, [www.soc-neuro-onc.org](http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org), for details).

Sunday, November 24th Sunrise Sessions include:

- Session 1: Brain Metastases
- Session 2: Minimizing Side Effects From Radiation
- Session 3: Tumor Associated Epilepsy
- Session 4: Microglia.

The sunrise sessions followed by concurrent meetings on 1) Metabolic Pathways/Stem Cells and 2) Imaging and RANO Update. The last concurrent sessions are 1) Preclinical Therapeutics and 2) Biologic/Immunologic Therapies followed by the meeting's adjournment.

Get ready to heed the great Tony Bennett and leave your heart in San Francisco!

## Membership Committee Report Year to Date 2013

SNO continues to grow steadily with an overall increase in membership of 11% since October 2012. Current membership stands at 1443 members consisting of 1237 full members, 54 associate members, 150 trainee members and 2 emeritus members.

Membership is reflective of the diversity of disciplines that are involved in the field with representation from neuro-oncology (407), neurosurgery (270), radiation oncology (114), basic sciences (128), medical oncology (85), pathology (75), pediatric oncology (63), and other disciplines including radiology, psychology, pharmacology, epidemiology, statistics, nursing and public health. Members of SNO include representatives from 42 countries spanning six continents.

The future growth and success of SNO will be dependent on continued efforts to reach out to interested individuals in each of these disciplines to inform them of the advantages of SNO membership. The Membership Committee is tasked with reviewing all applicants for membership.

There are currently four levels of membership: Full membership requires a doctorate level degree and a commitment to neuro-oncology related practice or research, Associate memberships are available for those without doctorate-level degrees, Trainee memberships are available to those in scientific or clinical training, and the newly created Emeritus membership category is available to members 65 years of age or older, or by special dispensation of the membership committee.

Membership benefits include:

- Twelve monthly issues of *Neuro-Oncology*
- Quarterly issues of *Neuro-Oncology Practice*
- Discount to the annual SNO Scientific Meeting and Education Day
- Regular e-blasts and neuro-oncology news
- Access to members-only section of the SNO website

The Membership Committee encourages all members to reach out to their professional colleagues to encourage participation and to make them aware of the benefits available through active membership. This personal effort has been the key to the continued growth in our high quality and engaged membership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Manmeet Ahluwalia, MD  
SNO Membership Committee Chair

**Congratulations to the incoming  
2014 SNO Officers and Board Members**

*President: David Reardon*

*Vice President: E. Antonio Chiocca*

*Secretary-Treasurer: Evanthia Galanis*

*Pathology Representative: Daniel Brat*

*Radiation Oncology Representative: Paul Brown*

*Young Investigator Representative: Manish Aghi*

*Allied Health Representative: Margaretta Page*

The Society for Neuro-Oncology thanks our Platinum Level Partners for their on-going support.

Their help allows SNO to fulfill its mission to advance neuro-oncology research and education.



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Mitchel S. Berger, MD  
Susan Chang, MD

**Journal Editor in Chief**

W.K. Alfred Yung, MD

**Journal Executive Editor (SNO)**

C. David James, PhD



The Society for NeuroOncology

**SNO News**

The SNO News is published two times per year and is distributed to members and friends of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

Editor: Nicholas Butowski, MD  
SNO Communications Chair

Associate Editor: Charles Haynes, JD  
SNO Executive Director

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