



Western Neurosurgical Society Newsletter Spring 2023

#westnsurg2023



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear members and friends of the Western Neurosurgical Society,

We are excited to extend a warm invitation to our upcoming meeting in beautiful Monterey, California. The **69th Annual Western Neurosurgical Society** meeting September 29- October 2 will bring together our members, prospective members, and friends of the WNS for an extended weekend of stimulating discussions, informative lectures, and engaging social interactions. Our program Chairman, Dr. Jason Hauptman, looks forward to receiving your abstracts. Dr. Mitch Berger will be our Cloward Lecturer, and [Kelly Skeff](#) will be our Prolo Lecturer.

Additionally, this will be our first year for the Randy Smith Lecture. Our meeting will occur at the stunning Portola Hotel and Spa from September 29 to October 2. The Hotel is just steps away from Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Warf, and Cannery Row. Monterey offers many recreational activities, including hiking, water sports, golfing, and wine tasting. Carmel-by-the-Sea and 17 Mile Drive are close by. Ciara HARRAHER, our Local Arrangements Committee Chair, is working on fun and engaging social events for our weekend afternoons. The famed Monterey Bay Aquarium will be the location for our Night Out and is excellent for attending families.

This meeting will be a valuable and enriching experience for all who attend. We hope you will join us in beautiful Monterey and contribute to the ongoing advancement of the Western Neurosurgical Society.

Jay K Morgan, MD
President, Western Neurosurgical Society

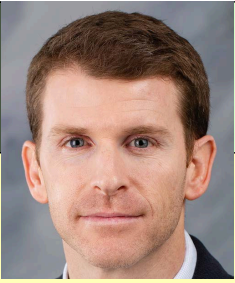


Table of Contents

- Welcome to the 69th WNS Meeting- Dr. Morgan** p. 1
- Hotel Registration** p.1 and p. 5
- Secretary-Treasurer Welcome** p. 2
- Donate to Randy Smith Lectureship** p. 2
- Membership Chair-Dr. Prall** p.3
- Bike around Monterey** p.3
- Kayak around Monterey** p.4
- Preliminary Meeting Agenda** p. 4
- Monterey Wine Tours** p. 5
- Portola Hotel** p. 5



[CLICK HERE FOR ROOM REGISTRATION FOR PORTOLA HOTEL MONTEREY, PENINSULA](#)



FROM OUR SECRETARY-TREASURER Justin Dye, MD, FAANS

Dear friends and members of The Western,

On behalf of Dr. Jay Morgan and the WNS executive committee, we are happy to invite you to the 69th annual meeting of the Western Neurosurgical Society. This will be the third in person meeting since our virtual get together in 2020 due to the pandemic. Last year was a testament to the resilience of this group with over 260 guest and members coming together on the big island of Hawaii. That total included 58 children, the largest number of kids in recent memory. We expect an equally large turnout this year as we meet on the beautiful coast of Northern California.

This year's meeting will be held at the Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay. The Portola is a AAA Four Diamond luxury hotel with stunning views of the bay. It is located near downtown Monterey and is just steps away from Fisherman's Wharf. In addition to our usual packed program and afternoon activities consider budgeting some time to treat yourself at what is considered 'the Best Spa in Monterey'. On the last page of this newsletter you'll find all the information you need to book your room now with our very reasonable group rate.

We can all look forward to a robust scientific program planned by Dr. Jason Hauptman and his committee. As usual, the program will include talks from our own members, new member candidates and resident abstract award winners. In addition, the program committee is planning timely discussions on neurosurgical innovation and diversity in neurosurgery. This year we will honor Dr. Mitch Berger with the 2023 Cloward award. Dr. Berger is the Past Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at UCSF, the leader of the UCSF Brain Tumor Research Center and a pioneer of intraoperative brain mapping during surgical resection of brain tumors. His talk will undoubtedly be a highlight of the program. This year's Prolo Lecturer is Dr. Kelley Skeff, Professor of Medicine – Primary Care and Population Health at Stanford University. Dr. Skeff is nationally recognized for his dedication to medical education and has received multiple teaching awards. Last but certainly not least, we will honor our dear friend Dr. Randy Smith with the inaugural Randy Smith Lectureship. Thank you to those who have already donated in Randy's memory and for those who haven't but still want to, there will be opportunities to give during the meeting. The scientific program is jointly provided by the AANS and attendees will be eligible for CME.

As always, we will break from talks about brain and spine surgery around mid-day and have ample time to catch up with old friends, make new friends and explore Monterey. We are particularly excited this year to spend our local's night at the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. On Saturday night we will enjoy a private event with a hosted bar and strolling dinner in the Ocean's Edge Kelp Forest Wing of the Aquarium. You won't want to miss it! Afternoon group activity options being coordinated by our Local Arrangements Chair, Dr. Ciara Harraher, include a guided wine tour, private bike tours and a kayak tour along Cannery Row.

As we continue to adjust to an increasingly virtual world, we are confident that the **69th annual meeting of the Western Neurosurgical Society** will provide the in person scientific exchange of ideas and connection with colleagues we all appreciate.

Justin Dye, MD, FAANS
WNS Secretary-Treasurer

DONATE to the Randy Smith Lectureship.

**Please make your tax-deductible checks payable to the Western Neurosurgical Society.
In the memo line, please write *Randy Smith Lectureship*.
Mail them to:**

Justin Dye MD, Secretary/Treasurer
The Western Neurosurgical Society
1533 Pamela Crest
Redlands, CA 92373

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Dear Members (and those considering or pursuing membership)

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming meeting in Monterey! Given the numerous applications received over the past 6 months, and additional interest expressed by neurosurgeons across the west, we hope that many of you will consider joining us this September 29-October 2 at the Portola Hotel and Spa. Some of you have already presented at a recent meeting and need just to attend another one to be voted into membership. If you'd like to present again, Jason Hauptman and his program committee would be happy to consider your abstract. Some of you have applications on file but have yet to present - you can do so in September to complete your application; and some of you have been identified by current members as individuals that we are hoping to bring into the society and can easily complete the application for membership online at our [website](#). All of you are invited to join us in Monterey as guests of any member you know, or myself! The WNS has a long history of both a great scientific program with relevant presentations and nationally acclaimed guest speakers, along with fun-filled afternoons and casual dinners where members, guests, and their families can actually get to know each other and build lasting friendships. We hope you will join us this fall and in the future.

Best Regards,

J. Adair Prall, MD
Membership Chair



BIKE AROUND MONTEREY!

Adventures by the Sea

Located just steps from the Portola Hotel and Spa and Old Fisherman's Wharf and on Cannery Row, Adventures by the Sea offers a variety of outdoor activities along with family bike (four-wheel) rentals as well as standard bikes and electric bikes. They are great for discovering the beautiful Monterey Peninsula along the recreation trail, around the rocky shores of Pacific Grove, and into the breathtaking 17-Mile Drive. Alternatively, you can explore the kelp forest and abundant marine life along Cannery Row or Stillwater Cove from an ocean kayak or rent a stand-up paddleboard (Cannery Row location). It's easy to book your bike rentals through the following link – rentals after five need to be done by phone. Bike rentals are scheduled for either half or full days. They provide you with a bike, bike map, helmet, and bike lock.

QUICK DETAILS | E-bikes

Location: Either at the Portola Hotel or their Cannery Row location
Duration: 4 or 8 hours (\$55 or \$85)
When: Daily
Age: Minimum age for E-bike riders is 13 with a valid ID.

QUICK DETAILS | Standard Bikes

Location: Around the corner from the Portola Hotel
Duration: 4 or 8 hours (\$40 or \$50)
When: Daily

QUICK DETAILS | Private Group Bike Tours

Location: Cannery Row
Duration: 2.5 hours
Length: up to 20 miles
When: Daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Age: Minimum age for E-bike riders is 13 with a valid ID.
Private Tours: Booked through their Cannery Row location. Your group can pick the time that works best for you (17 Mile Drive).

Adventures by the Sea

210 Alvarado Street Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 372-1807
<https://adventuresbythesea.com/portola-hotel/>

KAYAK CANNERY ROW KELP FOREST!

Private Cannery Row Kayak Tour

Paddle through the kelp forest canopy along Cannery Row and experience the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Visit the resident raft of otters that hangs out right in front of their shop! This location is just a short paddle away from both the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Coast Guard Pier. Both of these areas are prime for wildlife viewing. They guarantee sightings of otters, harbor seals, and sea lions on this two-hour tour.

Location: Cannery Row

Duration: 2 hours

When: Daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Will need to see if you can customize the tour to your group's timeframe)

They Provide:

- Splash gear
- Life vests
- Booties (if desired)
- Paddling and wildlife orientation

Please bring a towel, hat or sunglasses, and sunscreen.

Adventures by the Sea

299 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 648-7235

<https://adventuresbythesea.com/cannery-row/>



Preliminary Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 29, 2023

1:00 p.m. Registration Opens

7:00 p.m. WNS Welcome Reception

Saturday, September 30, 2023

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Scientific Program and Breaks with Exhibitors

6:00 p.m. Local Night *Ocean's Edge Kelp Forest Wing of Aquarium*

Sunday, October 1, 2023

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Member Business Meeting

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Guest Breakfast with Exhibitors

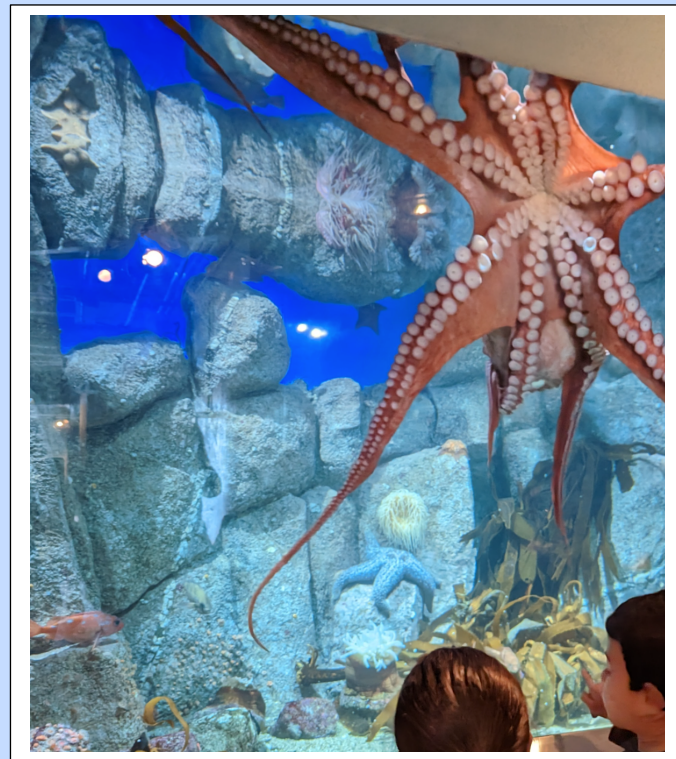
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Scientific Program and Breaks with Exhibitors

6:30 p.m. Formal Night

Monday, October 2, 2023

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Scientific Program and Breaks with Exhibitors



[MONTEREY GUIDED WINE TOURS!](#)

This is a great way to visit and explore Monterey's premier wine region, the Santa Lucia Highlands! We will sip and savor wines from boutique wineries in this beautiful wine region, sampling some of the best wines being produced in California.

Your exclusive wine tour package will include:

"Wine Tasters Package"

- Four hour exclusive guided wine tasting tour
- Perfect for your guests and group size
- Door to door service
- Tasting fees at select vineyards and tasting rooms
- Champaign mimosas upon pickup (ask about our sparkling wine upgrade!)
- Cheese and Charcuterie platter
- Snacks and water
- Introductions at all vineyards and tasting rooms
- Our knowledgeable guide

**JOIN US IN MONTEREY AT THE PORTOLA HOTEL SEPTEMBER 29-
OCTOBER 2, 2023!**

[WNS PORTOLA HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION LINK](#)

[SPA INFORMATION](#) OR CALL/EMAIL: phone - (831) 647-9000 email - reserve@spaontheplaza.com



This Newsletter is brought to you from the Communications Committee:
Deborah Henry-Chair
Moustapha Abou-Samra
Marco Lee
J. Adair Prall
Isaac Yang