



Western Neurosurgical Society Newsletter Spring 2024



Dear friends and members of The Western

On behalf of our President, Dr. Marco Lee, and the executive committee, we are happy to invite you to the **70th** annual meeting of the Western Neurosurgical Society!

Thanks to you all, last year's meeting was one of the most well attended in recent memory. Over 300 members, guests and industry partners met in Monterey Bay demonstrating the strength of our society and our appetite for in-person interaction.

For our Platinum Anniversary meeting, we expect an equally large turnout as we gather in 'America's Finest City.' This year's meeting will be held at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar in San Diego, CA. The Grand Del Mar sits in a coastal canyon surrounded by a nature preserve. Just 5 miles from the ocean, the resort boasts hiking trails, an award-winning golf course, a 5-star spa, 4 heated pools and fine dining.

For the foodies among us, consider making a reservation at Addison, the only 3-star Michelin rated restaurant in Southern California. Be sure to book early as reservations fill up months in advance.

On the last page of this newsletter, you'll find all the information you need to book your room now with our group rate. Be sure to book your room early as our block can sell out. Please note that this year the opening reception will be Thursday night, September 5th, and the meeting will adjourn on Sunday,

Membership, abstract and registration information can be found at www.westnsurg.org

We can all look forward to a robust scientific program organized by Dr. Melanie Hayden-Gephardt and her committee. Please consider submitting an abstract now and being a part of the program.

Table of Contents

70th Annual Meeting WNS—pp.1-2

President's Invites---pp. 3-4

Mentorship program--p. 5

73rd WNS meeting--p. 6

In Memoriam--p. 7

Registration information--p. 8



The 2024 Cloward Medal will be awarded to WNS Past President Dr. Linda Liau. Dr. Liau is the W. Eugene Stern Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at UCLA, Director of the UCLA Brain Tumor Program, former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology, and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Not only is Dr. Liau an internationally recognized leader in the fight against brain cancer but she is also a dedicated mentor to students, residents, and faculty. As one of Dr. Liau's mentees, I'd like to say that this award is well deserved!

This year's Prolo Lecturer will be Dr. Gerald Grant who is the Allan H. Friedman Distinguished Professor and Chair of Neurosurgery at Duke University. Dr. Grant is prior director of the pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Stanford. He served on active duty in the US Air Force and was deployed to both Iraq and Germany.

Additionally, we will continue to honor our dear friend Dr. Randy Smith with the second annual 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.

Of course, the meeting won't all be about neurosurgery. We are planning a unique social program that will highlight our Society's 70th anniversary. Join us for local's night as we enjoy a private tour of the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

After dinner and live music on the Steam Ferry Berkley we'll transition to battling pirates and learning about the Royal Navy on the Star of India and HMS Surprise. This will be a fun event for kids of all ages.

The resort has multiple on-site activity options including hiking, golf, pickleball, archery and horseback riding. In addition, we are planning off-site afternoon activities including horse racing at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, kayaking in La Jolla Cove, hiking through coastal slot canyons and a brewery tour. Details for each will be included in our registration form.



For our guests who have never attended a meeting of the Western Neurosurgical Society and for our members who haven't been to a meeting since the world stopped, I want to send you a special invitation to join us this year. You won't be disappointed!

Justin Dye, MD, FAANS
WNS Secretary-Treasury



PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONS

BY: MARCO LEE



I am hugely excited about the upcoming 70th annual meeting at the Grand Del Mar. The executive and committee chairs and members have been hard at work to bring about a truly exciting program and a unique experience for all our members and guests. There are several invitations that I'd like to make.

I'd like to extend a particular invitation to our newly elected members from recent years to take this opportunity to attend, enjoy, and share the warm and friendly experience with your family and loved ones. We are a unique society that strongly encourage you to bring along your significant other and family. Vanessa and I have been so grateful that our children have been attending since a few months old to now teenagers. It's been a blast to show them a glimpse of what daddy and his colleagues do in the exhibit hall, while enjoying fabulous surroundings and activities in the afternoons where they have made so many new friends. You get great kudos too from your significant other, and they get to discover that neurosurgeons aren't that dull after all! Of course, it is great to just turn up yourself as well, spending quality time with colleagues and friends, and hopefully making a few new ones along the way.

At the heart of our meeting is of course the outstanding quality of our scientific program, enhanced by the intimate nature of our society and the multitudinous perspectives demonstrated by our varied speakers and audience. Our members and guests hail from single private practices to large conglomerates and full academic institutions across a huge geographical area. However, we are all here to share experiences and learn from each other for the betterment of our patients. The depths and nuances we are able to engage in our discussions distinguishes our society and will certainly enrich your experience.

My second invitation is to all member candidates who may or may not have attended our meetings previously. You are receiving this newsletter as well and I would urge you to attend this Platinum anniversary meeting. The society is going from strength to strength, but part of that momentum requires new blood, enthusiasm, and vision. We are a small and intimate society, driven wholly by volunteers. In this issue alone, you will have seen the excellent work done, for example, by our mentorship program committee, chaired by Drs. Mark Sedrak and Marvin Bergsneider, introducing our members to a unique family of varied neurosurgeons as mentors. The site visit you read above was all put together by our hard working and dedicated secretary treasurer, Dr. Justin Dye, with crucial support from our Local Arrangement Chair, Dr. Sharona Ben-Haim, and her committee. This newsletter, again put together by Dr. Deborah Henry and her committee and so many other volunteers to bring about a unique, vibrant, and successful meeting. This is a society where you can get involved in and make a difference. So please make plans to come this year. Remember, if you've given a presentation already but have not been nominated as member, you just need to attend this year and not necessarily need to speak. And if you haven't presented before, you have received this newsletter because you've applied for membership and obviously eager to join. So, please do let Dr. Adair Prall, our membership chair know, and submit your abstract to Dr. Melanie Hayden Gephart, our scientific program chair.



My next invitation is to echo the call for mentors by Dr. Sedrak, Dr. Bergsneider and their committee. This is an exciting program which I'm sure many of us wish we had. It is entirely different from the mentorship program that you may have experienced during residency, or in your current institution. It is much more holistic and outside of your workplace. Mentor volunteers will receive more information and we will elaborate on this program at the meeting as well. However, please do write to Dr. Sedrak or Dr. Bergsneider if you'd like to be included as a WNS mentor family member.

My final invitation is about an exciting event on the night of our gala dinner. For those of you who know Randy Smith, you will know the immense impact he had on the WNS, and I'm not just talking about his one-man comedy show during desserts! Since his passing on October 25, 2021, we have created the Randy Smith lectureship with the help of Randy's family, especially Mrs. Flo Smith and Dr. Christine Smith. With your help and generosity, we celebrated the inaugural lecture in Monterey last year, and we've been able to continue fund raising to establish a fully funded lectureship. With that spirit in mind, and with the continuing need to raise a WNS endowment fund to enable the society to pursue education and research initiatives, we will be hosting the society's first live auction during Randy's customary spot at the gala dinner. I am therefore inviting members to donate items, such as time in a holiday home, or unique experiences that you may grant access to, like an exclusive wine club, or to join you on a cruise, etc. Please write to me and I will let you know if the item is feasible to auction or not. We are looking for big ticket items, in the \$1K-5K+ range. This promises to be a fun night as we have a few surprises in store as well.

Thank you for all your support and I hope you are all enjoying Spring and reveling in the season's renewal and vibrancy.

Marco Lee
marcolee@stanford.edu



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

WESTERN LAUNCHES NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BY: MARK SEDRAK

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the **WNS Mentorship Program** this year with the vision of President Marco Lee. This program is designed to offer our members, particularly those in the early stages of their careers, an opportunity for mentorship by a family of WNS members.

Goals

The mentorship program aims to provide guidance in various areas

- Professional development
- Achieving work-life balance
- Advice for challenging cases
- Dealing with early career stresses



The WNS mentorship family will consist of mentors of varying career stages and backgrounds, extending beyond a traditional 1:1 format.



Mentors

We are seeking volunteers from our Active or Senior-status WNS members, ideally 10 or more years out of training, to serve as mentors. As a token of our appreciation, mentors will be provided with a WNS pin indicating their participation in this program.

Mentees

While mentorship is available for all WNS members, the program is envisioned to primarily benefit new Active and Provisional WNS members who are early in their careers.

Expectations

Mentors are expected to reach out to their mentees at least quarterly. We highly encourage designating a time to meet in person at the annual meeting. Each mentor family should include a Lead Mentor to ensure that all mentors in the team are engaged. We expect the mentor-mentee relationship to uphold mutual confidentiality and maintain all rules regarding HIPAA. Please note that the mentorship program is intended to provide general advice and is not considered a professional consultation.

Logistics

Mentees will be paired with a mentor family determined during the annual meeting by the Mentorship Committee. The mentorship family will consist of a Lead Mentor and two others. A mentorship family may mentor more than one mentee. The mentor-mentee relationship will formally exist for 2 years, after which the mentor may be made available to mentor a subsequent mentee if the need arises.

Mentee candidates shall submit their mentor request(s) with ranking and will learn of the decision by the end of the annual meeting. An exchange of phone numbers and email will be provided to the mentor family and mentee in addition to a confirmatory email from the WNS mentorship coordinator(s). Mentees may request a change in mentor at any time.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the mentorship program committee members including Thomas Scully, Amir Vokshoor, and Arjun Pendharkar.

We look forward to the positive impact this program will have on our members and the broader neurosurgical community.

Sincerely,

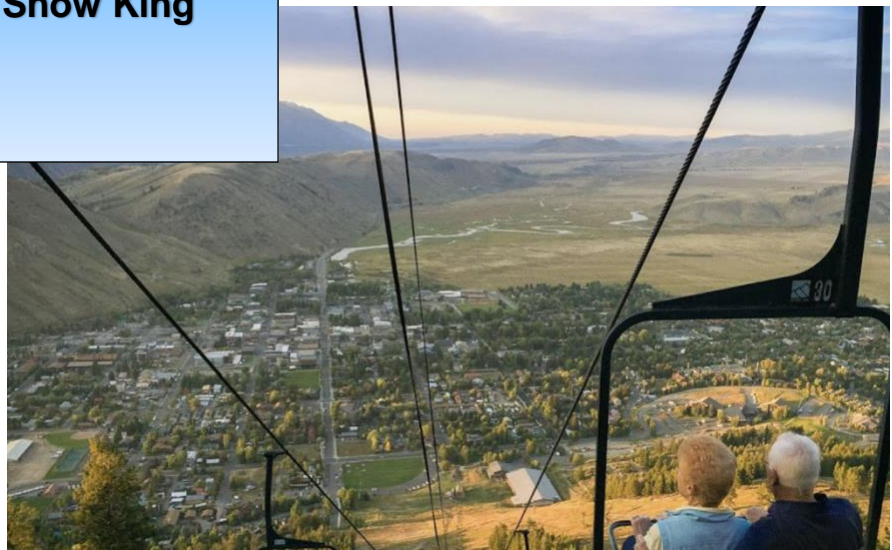
Mark Sedrak and Marvin Bergsneider
WNS Mentorship Program Chairs

Mentors program:
wnssecr.treas@gmail.com

Site Selection Committee Chooses Snow King

BY: AUSTIN COLOHAN

The 73rd annual meeting of the Western Neurosurgical Society will be held at the Snow King Resort <https://www.snowking.com/> on September 9-12, 2027, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Jackson Hole (population 11,000, and elevation 6,200 feet) is a very popular western-style town best known for its outdoor winter activities, like skiing. However, it is also a wonderful location for summer outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, white water rafting, etc. The town is only a 15-minute walk on flat terrain from the Resort, and there is also a shuttle bus. There are plenty of shopping, art galleries and great restaurants in town.

Jackson Hole is located only 1 hour south of Grand Teton National Park, and 3 hours south of Yellowstone National Park. The meeting in 2027 is held after the Labor Day weekend, allowing for an extended stay to enjoy the parks!

The airport at Jackson Hole has many direct flights from major western cities, such as Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Salt Lake City, and Denver. It is only a 20-minute (11 mile) drive from the Resort. A car is a necessity for exploring the area.

The area around the Snow King resort has plenty of activities for kids, particularly at Snow Mountain Sports next door to the Resort.

<https://snowkingmountain.com/>, such as zip lining, alpine slides, miniature golf, bike rental, etc.



The resort is located at the foot of Snow King Mountain and has many accommodation styles including condos for families and is pet friendly. There is an outdoor heated pool and a restaurant (Hayden's Post) on site.

The WNS has not had a meeting in Wyoming since 1982. Jackson Hole is a unique spot for our meeting in 2027 and no doubt will prove to be a favorite.



In Memoriam

Fredric Lewis Edelman



June 20, 1933 - January 6, 2024

Fredric Lewis Edelman, a distinguished Neurosurgeon and esteemed educator, peacefully departed this world at his Los Angeles home on Saturday January 6, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family. He was 90 years old.

Born on June 20, 1933, in Brooklyn, NY, Fredric, or Fred as he was affectionately known, was a beacon of intellect, compassion, and dedication throughout his remarkable life. He graduated from Princeton University in the class of 1954 and went on to achieve his MD from Columbia Physicians & Surgeons. Fred's passion for healing and serving others led him to a distinguished career as a

Neurosurgeon, where he left an indelible mark on the medical field.

A man of profound wisdom and unwavering commitment, Fredric served as a clinical professor of neurosurgery at UCLA and contributed significantly to the advancement in the field including starting its peripheral nerve program. His expertise and dedication inspired generations of medical professionals.

Fredric was not only a dedicated professional but also a loving family man. He shared almost 65 years of marriage, dancing, learning, and exploring with his beloved wife, Emily, who stood by his side until the end. Their enduring love was a testament to the strength of their bond.

Fredric is survived by his devoted wife, Emily Edelman, and their three children, Michael, Jonathan, and Jill. He was also blessed with six grandchildren: Roan, Clea, Logan, Daniel, Jacob, and Jonah, who brought immense joy to his life and who carry on his legacy of service as artists, educators, inventors, scientists, and kind human beings.

As a young, single man, Fred adventured on freighters plying the waters from Nova Scotia to Argentina. As an older, married man, Fred introduced his kids to sailboat racing to keep them out their mother's hair while she studied to become a lawyer.

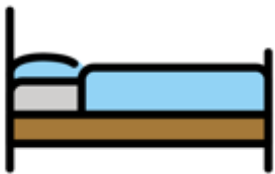
In addition to his illustrious career and familial roles, Fredric proudly served in the Navy at Bethesda, contributing his skills and knowledge to the service of his country.

Fredric Lewis Edelman's legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched as a healer, educator, and family man. His memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A funeral service to honor Fredric's life will be held 10 am, Thursday, January 11 at Hillside Memorial Park, 6001 Centinela Avenue, Culver City, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to a charity of your choice in Fredric's memory.

The passing of this humble, brilliant giant has left a 6'-4", Fred-shaped, gaping hole in the hearts of his family, friends and colleagues. We miss him dearly. May he rest in eternal peace, and may his family find solace in the memories of a life well-lived and the impact he made on the lives of those around him.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar. 5300 Grand Del Mar Court, San Diego



FAIRMONT Registration

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50806750>



This Newsletter is a product of the Communications and Website Committee: Deborah Henry (Chair), J. Adair Prall, Moustapha Abou-Samra

All emojis designed by [OpenMoji](https://openmoji.com/) – the open-source emoji and icon project. License: [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)