



Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for making the 4th Annual Meeting of the Subcortical Surgery Group the best and largest attended SSG meeting yet! We had a multitude of over 20 presenters and diverse subject matter that ranged from technique to technology than ever before. It was very apparent by the clinical evidence presented that more and more of us are successfully exploring and using new minimally invasive subcortical surgical approaches that are better for the patient and better for our institutions.

I want to thank the speakers who took time from their busy schedules to converge in Boulder. On behalf of the 90+ neurosurgeons (from nine different countries) at this meeting, thank you for sharing your experiences and clinical outcomes. As in past years, we had a very engaged group and active participation in panel discussions and presentations, which showed our commitment to open collaboration and idea sharing that is the cornerstone of the SSG mission. For the first time ever at our meeting, we actively involved attendees through a real-time audience response polling system using our smart phones. Polling results provided an interesting snapshot of how and what you are doing in making surgical decisions and the resulting clinical outcomes. This polling resulted in excellent panel discussions and audience questions for shared learning experiences. We plan to continue this next year.

Please allow me to recap a few of our presentations that made this year's meeting so interesting and cutting edge:

- Achieving the equivalency of en bloc resection with the systems approach presented by Edie Zusman, MD, from NorthBay Center for Neurosciences in California.
- The need of new WHO guidelines in neurosurgery by using an automated biospecimen collection and preservation system presented by Gary Gallia, MD, PhD, from Johns Hopkins.
- Improving tissue yield and diagnostic accuracy in brain biopsy by Rohan Ramakrishna, MD, from Weill Cornell Brain and Spine Center.
- Experiences in treating brain tumors with Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy by Gene Barnett, MD from Cleveland Clinic.
- Using ultrasound for intraoperative "real-time" visualization with tubular retractors and identifying the sulci and extent of resection presented by Brad Zacharia, MD, Penn State Hershey Medical Center.
- An update on the multi-center ENRICH (Early Minimally Invasive Removal of ICH) randomized controlled trial for intracerebral hemorrhages by Jonathan Ratcliff, MD, Emory University School of Medicine.
 - The number of trial sites will be doubling to 30 after significant participation interest with more than 70 applications received for the trial that is designed to compare the outcomes between early intervention of clot removal using the systems approach and the medical management standard of care.
- Meeting the Triple AIM through the economic impact to healthcare institutions when using a subcortical surgical approach and how to approach the Value Analysis Committee presented by Sidney Norton, Vice President of Budget and Financial Analysis at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

I want to thank the expanding number of vendors who support our efforts. This year we added four new vendor sponsors in addition to the ongoing support of six vendors that continue to help grow the SSG mission.

I have shared some photos from our annual meeting below. These are just a glimpse of the many highlights that continue to make our meetings stronger every year. We have not set next year's meeting date; however, we are currently reviewing summer dates and location options. This information will be provided to you as soon as possible so that you can make plans to attend. If you have not yet attended one of our SSG meetings, I encourage you to make this a priority and consider joining us next year as we continue to forge new paths in subcortical neurosurgery and learn from our shared experiences. For those of you who have attended, we hope to see you again next year! We are already considering speakers and topics for next year – please let us know if you have suggestions on presentations you would like to see. We are always open to your ideas.

Regards,

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SUBCORTICAL SURGERY GROUP

4th Annual Meeting of the Subcortical Surgery Group

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

