

Press Release



For Immediate Release

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NREF to Award \$2.2 Million in Grants and Fellowships for 2025-26 Academic Year

July 15, 2025 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.) – he Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF), the philanthropic arm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), will award \$2.2 million in research grants and clinical fellowships for the 2025–26 academic year. This funding milestone underscores NREF’s ongoing commitment to advancing neurosurgical research, supporting education and expanding access to critical training opportunities nationwide.

“Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors and partners, NREF is able to support groundbreaking research and essential training opportunities for the next generation of neurosurgeons,” said **Adam S. Arthur**, MD, MPH, FAANS, chair of the NREF. “This funding ensures that we are building a more knowledgeable and capable neurosurgical community.”

Industry Partnerships Driving Clinical Fellowships

The NREF Clinical Fellowship Grant Program will fund 30 clinical fellowships in 2025–26 through the support of several key industry partners. Globus Medical returns as the Premier-Level Supporter of the program, providing the largest contribution. Leadership-Level Sponsors, Medtronic and Johnson & Johnson MedTech, also played significant roles in making this training possible. Additional support comes from Contributing-Level Sponsors, including Terumo Neuro, Cerenovus and Stryker. Together, these partners help ensure that early-career neurosurgeons receive high-quality subspecialty training at leading institutions across the country.

Supporting Research and Early-Career Neurosurgeons

In addition to clinical fellowships, NREF will fund 15 research awards this cycle, with the support of AANS/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Joint Sections and academic partners. For example, the [AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves](#) contributed through the [Larson Honor Your Mentor Fund](#), while the [AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section](#) and [AANS/CNS Pediatric Neurological Surgery Section](#) also provided research support. NREF will match the contributions from the latter two to amplify their impact.

Affiliated academic and professional organizations continue to play a crucial role. The [American Academy of Neurological Surgeons](#) provided funding for three research grants, two of which will receive matching support from NREF. Columbia University also contributed through the [Parsa Honor Your Mentor Fund](#).

Investing in the Future of Neurosurgery

These investments – spanning clinical training and foundational research – will support more than 45 neurosurgical fellows and investigators in the upcoming academic year. Together with its partners, NREF remains committed to fueling innovation, advancing patient care and strengthening the future of the neurosurgical profession.

For more information about NREF funding opportunities or to support neurosurgical research and education, visit www.nref.org.

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About the AANS

Founded in 1931, the **American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)** is a global scientific and educational organization representing more than 12,000 neurosurgeons. The AANS is dedicated to advancing the specialty of neurological surgery by promoting excellence in patient care through education, research, and innovation. Guided by its core values—integrity, leadership, inclusiveness, professionalism, and innovation—the AANS is shaping the future of neurosurgery worldwide. For more information, visit www.aans.org.