

From: [NREF](#)
To: [Joanne M. Bonaminio](#)
Subject: NREF Newsletter | Fall 2025
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 4:54:44 PM

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Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Neurosurgery is meaningful work, and each year, we learn about promising research and continued advancements in the field.

The **Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation** (NREF) has been opening doors to **future breakthroughs** and providing young neurosurgeons with a **springboard to success** for over forty years. Over 30 percent of NREF resident grant recipients go on to receive NIH funding and nearly 20 percent are chairs of academic departments.

Our impact on career trajectories also extends to medical students. A study of **NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship** applicants and awardees, recently published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, found that the program results in a high percentage of “awardees pursuing neurosurgery and matching into top-ranked residency programs.” Furthermore, awardees that go on to academic neurosurgery programs receive subsequent NIH funding at a ratio of \$1:\$9. The ROI is undeniable: The MSSRF is cultivating the next generation of neurosurgeons and fostering future success by providing these medical students with valuable experience, mentorship and organizational support.

Collectively, through the NREF, we have the power to **light the way for neurosurgeons**.


When asked about supporting the NREF, a Cushing Circle of Giving member said *“Training neurosurgeons is the most important thing we do in academic neurosurgery. I am proud of the fact that we have maintained our emphasis on research in the training of young neurosurgeons. The NREF is one of the best ways to support residents and young faculty members in their research efforts. I have been happy to contribute time and financial support to the NREF.”*

The NREF is fortunate to have a talented pool of individuals who have taken it upon themselves to lead this Foundation with an eye towards the future. The members of the NREF board and various committees are committed to a vision of providing support for initiatives that enhance the critical role of improving lives for neurosurgical patients.

To my fellow AANS members: I invite you to lean into your engagement with NREF.

You are a part of an extraordinary specialty. With the support of individuals, industry partners, institutions, neurosurgical societies and private foundations, we will continue to provide exceptional opportunities for neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers and across every subspecialty.

Donating to NREF is an affirmation of the work that we do, as we show our alliance to an organization that funds the **advancement of science** and a commitment to the future of our specialty.

 Visit our secure online [Donate](#) page to make a tax-deductible donation that will **empower** the next generation of neurosurgeons.

Thank you for your continued support of NREF!

Sincerely,



Adam S. Arthur, MD, MPH, FAANS

NREF Chair

Additional Updates from the NREF

[Cushing Circle of Giving Welcomes New and Elevated Members](#)

The **Cushing Circle of Giving** was established by the NREF as a lifetime giving society to recognize donors who support the Foundation's research and education efforts. The NREF extends its gratitude to: **Constantinos G. Hadjipanayis**, MD, PhD, FAANS and **Domenico Antonio Gattozzi**, MD, FAANS, the newest philanthropists to have made a substantial commitment to the future of neurosurgery by joining the Cushing Circle, and to **Timir Banerjee**, MD, FAANS(L), the latest member to reach the Platinum level. To become a member, visit our secure [Donate](#) page, email info@nref.org or call 847.378.0500 for more information.

[2026-27 NREF Grant Portal Now Open](#)

An NREF award can have an extraordinary impact on a neurosurgeon's career. Over 30% of NREF grant recipients have gone on to receive NIH funding and nearly 20% have become chairs of academic departments.

Grant and fellowship applications for the 2026-27 academic year are available now through the [NREF Online Grant Portal](#).

Use your myAANS.org login to access the portal. If you have questions about the application process, please contact NREF, at 847.378.0500 or via email at info@nref.org.

[NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships and their Impact on Careers](#)

Since 2008, the NREF has invested in aspiring physicians through the [NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowships](#) (MSSRF) program.

The results of a study of MSSRF applicants and awardees was recently published in the [Journal of Neurosurgery](#). Authors found that the program results in a high

percentage of “awardees pursuing neurosurgery and matching into top-ranked residency programs.”

NREF thanks the donors, mentors and leaders that make this program possible, and we salute the awardees making a difference in the future of neurosurgery.

NREF Honor Your Mentor Funds Announce Awards

Honor Your Mentor (HYM) Funds recognize the incredible people who have advanced neurosurgery. Each mentor fund has a specific purpose, and donations fund a chosen research or educational endeavor in the mentor’s name across a variety of subspecialties. The following HYM funds have recently made award disbursements: **Martin Weiss and Hoi Sang U**. NREF congratulates all award recipients and offers our best wishes for their continued success.

Save the Date for 21st Annual Charity Softball Tournament

The **21st Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament**, hosted by Columbia University, will be held in New York City’s Central Park on Saturday, June 6, 2026, to raise funds for brain tumor research. The tournament will feature teams from across the U.S and Canada. For more information regarding the 2026 tournament, please contact Dr. Ricardo J. Komotar (rkomotar@med.miami.edu); or Dr. Jeffrey N. Bruce (jnb2@columbia.edu).

SNS Neurosurgeon-Scientist Training Program Grant Application Now Open

The **Society of Neurological Surgeons** (SNS) and the **Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation** (NREF) are happy to announce the application for the **2026-27 SNS Neurosurgeon-Scientist Training Program Grant** is now open. Applications for both Year 1 and Year 2 can be submitted through the **NREF Online Grant Portal**. The deadline to submit an application is Monday, December 15, 2025. Award announcements will be made in Spring 2026.

Apply for 2026 NREF Honor Your Mentor Fund Awards

Honor Your Mentor (HYM) Funds recognize the incredible people who have advanced neurosurgery. Each mentor fund has a specific purpose, and donations fund a chosen research or educational endeavor in the mentor’s name across a variety of subspecialties.

The **AANS/CNS Section on Women in Neurosurgery** proudly announces that applications for 2026 awards are now open: **Karin M. Muraszko Mentorship Award** and **Shelly D. Timmons Leadership Award**. NREF encourages eligible members to pursue these outstanding professional opportunities.

Enhance Your Neurosurgical Training with NREF

The NREF is committed to providing early career neurosurgeons access to relevant, leading-edge educational opportunities. Our free, **in-person courses** offer advanced resident and fellow educational training in topic areas not always covered within neurosurgical residency. While spaces at the in-person courses are invitation-only, there are **courses and webinars** available online, free of charge, to neurosurgical residents around the world. All online courses and past episodes of NREF webinars are archived on the **NREF YouTube** channel.

How You Can Support NREF

Make a difference in one minute. **Text "Neurosurgery" to 41444** from your mobile device or visit our online **Donate** page. Illuminate the world of neurosurgery with a contribution to the NREF. Every donation helps fund cutting-edge research and educational programs to develop the next generation of neurosurgeons and provide the highest quality of patient care.

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