



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's Springtime. Time for Major League Baseball and March Madness. And at NREF, it also means it's time for the [Cushing Bowl](#) and the [Columbia Charity Softball Tournament](#).

Neurosurgical programs from around the country are participating in the fourth annual [Cushing Bowl](#) and raising funds to advance NREF's mission in support of neurosurgical research and education. Wake Forest took the coveted trophy in 2024. Who will claim victory in 2025? Visit the NREF [website](#) for links to your favorite team's fundraising page. The winner will be announced on Saturday, April 26 during the NREF Reception at the [AANS Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Boston.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, the NREF will be represented in the **AANS NeuroHub** (Booth #641) on the exhibit floor. Please stop by and learn about our resident & fellows courses, grant and fellowship program, and how NREF programs are helping shape the future of neurosurgery.

The [Columbia Charity Softball Tournament](#) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025. Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI) is the defending champion. Can they be dethroned in 2025? Join us later this spring as an expanded field of fifty-six teams from across the U.S. and Canada take the field on Saturday, June 7, 2025 on the North Meadow Ballfields of Central Park in New York City. Proceeds from the event will benefit neurosurgical research.

Each of these events represents an opportunity for us to build community, increase engagement and encourage friendly competition, while serving a shared goal: To support the specialty by providing neurosurgeons with a springboard to success.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit the secure NREF website and click [Donate](#) or contact the NREF team at info@nref.org for more information. Your gift will help to advance neurosurgery and improve neurosurgical care for our patients.

Thank you for your continued support of NREF!



Sincerely,

Adam S. Arthur, MD, MPH, FAANS
NREF Chair

[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: **Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FAANS, FRCS, Jonathan A. Grossberg, MD, FAANS, L. Dade Lunsford, MD, FAANS, Paul B. Nelson, MD, FAANS(L)** and the **Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS)**, the newest philanthropists to have made a substantial commitment to the future of neurosurgery by joining the Cushing Circle, and to **Drs. Kevin T. and Lynn M. Foley**, the latest members to reach the Platinum level and **Donald O. Quest, MD, FAANS(L)** for reaching the Silver level. To become a member, visit our secure [Donate](#) page, email info@nref.org or call 847.378.0500 for more information.

[Announcing the 4th Annual NREF Cushing Bowl](#)



Who will carry the torch in 2025? Will Wake Forest repeat or will they be dethroned? The NREF is pleased to announce the fourth annual [Cushing Bowl](#) - a competition amongst residency programs during the 2025 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, April 25-28, 2025 in Boston, MA. Build community and encourage friendly competition, while raising funds to further NREF's mission of advancing neurosurgical research and education. Contact NREF at info@nref.org for more information.

[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: **A. Leland Albright, Charles Kuntz IV, Christopher I. Shaffrey, David Kline, David L. Kelly, Ed Benzel, John A. Jane, Sr., Karin M. Muraszko, Philip E. Stieg, Richard G. Fessler, Sanford J. Larson, Shelly D. Timmons, Ulrich Batzdorf, and Warren C. Boop.** NREF

congratulates all award recipients and offers our best wishes for their continued success.

[University of Pittsburgh Med Student Receives MSSRF Best Abstract Award](#)



The NREF congratulates **Wenjing (Lilly) Tang** from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine on being selected the 2024 NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship Best Abstract Award recipient. Ms. Tang has been invited to present "Thalamic Stimulation in Post-Stroke Motor Recovery" during the 2025 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston. For information about the [NREF Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship](#), please contact NREF via email at info@nref.org.

[David Bergeron, MD, Selected as 2026-27 Van Wagenen Fellow](#)



The William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship Selection Committee has announced **David Bergeron, MD**, as the recipient of the 2026-27 [William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship](#). Dr. Bergeron, a resident in neurosurgery at the Université de Montréal in Montréal, Quebec, Canada, will spend his fellowship year at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland, under the supervision and mentorship of Jocelyne Bloch. He will pursue the research topic "Brain-spine interface for motor restoration in subcortical stroke."

[2025 CV Section Traveling Fellowship Winners Announced](#)

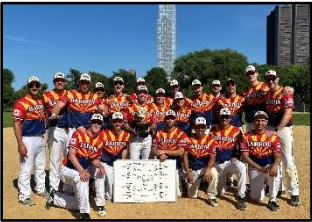


The [AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section](#) is pleased to announce that Jonathan A. Grossberg, MD, FAANS and Clemens M. Schirmer, MD, PhD, MBA, FAANS, FACS, FAHA have been selected as the recipients of the 2025 Cerebrovascular Section Traveling Fellowship.

The [Cerebrovascular Section Traveling Fellowship](#), with support from **Medtronic** and **MicroVention**, allows a practicing neurointerventionalist of any specialty to visit a high-volume cerebrovascular center for a one-week observership.

Interested applicants must be fellowship-trained cerebrovascular/endovascular specialists, board-certified in a specialty and hold a CAST certificate in neuroendovascular surgery, or able to demonstrate significant open cerebrovascular experience and practice. Contact NREF at 847.378.0500 or info@nref.org for more information.

[Join Us for the 20th Annual Charity Softball Tourney](#)



The [20th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament](#), hosted by Columbia University, will be held in New York City's Central Park on Saturday, June 7, 2025 to raise funds for brain tumor research. The tournament will feature an expanded field from across the U.S and Canada. For more information regarding the tournament, please contact Dr. Ricardo J. Komotar (rkomotar@med.miami.edu); or Dr. Jeffrey N. Bruce (jnb2@columbia.edu).

[Enhance Your Neurosurgical Training with NREF](#)



The NREF is committed to providing early career neurosurgeons with 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 NREF. Every donation helps fund cutting-edge research and educational programs to help develop the next generation of neurosurgeons provide the highest quality of patient care.

[Van Wagenen Hockey Tournament Raises \\$30,000](#)



The 2nd Annual Van Wagenen Hockey Tournament was a great success, with around 50 players competing in a thrilling event at the University of Minnesota on January 26th, 2025. The Syracuse Bulldogs claimed victory over the Peterborough Patriots in the final. The fundraiser raised over \$30,000 in support of the prestigious **William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship**, which provides neurosurgical residents interested in studying abroad a unique opportunity with a program designed to give freedom in scientific development without the restrictive limitations imposed by many research grants and fellowships. Special thanks to **Medtronic**, **Peter Lazic US Inc.**, and **Summit Hockey** for their partnership.

Donations to the Van Wagenen Fellowship Fund are still welcome via [this link](#). See you next year for the 3rd Annual Tournament!