

## SNACC President's Message

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### Dear colleagues,

It is a great time to be a member of SNACC. Since we last met in San Francisco there has been an out pouring of volunteerism amongst our ranks. We also anticipate some difficult times given the market forces affecting our practices and conduct of our programs. First I will elaborate on the good.

### Community

The first SNACC event that I attended was the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in 1991 which was held in San Francisco. A neurosurgeon, was the president at the time and some of the officers and speakers at that meeting still are active members of SNACC today. Being a newly minted pediatric neuroanesthesiologist at that time, I wanted to learn about the latest clinical and research topics in our field. I was rewarded by the breadth of the topics and insightful discussion that followed. Sixteen years later, SNACC maintains this tradition of scholarly and provocative annual meetings. This success is largely due to the collective talents of our members. What sets us apart from the other subspecialty societies is our diversity. What other group can boast a membership composed of, PhDs, MDs, DVMs, anesthesiologists, intensivists, private practitioners, NIH-funded investigators, departmental chairs, fellows, physiologists, molecular biologists, internists, and pediatricians? Furthermore no other group has the international following that we do. This amalgamation provides a rich environment, both at our annual meeting and our web community, which truly promotes our mission to "*advance the art and science of the care of the neurologically impaired patient*". This common goal brings us together as an international community and prompts us to pursue initiatives designed to advance our specialty.

### Activism

We need to promote meaning and value to your membership in SNACC. This can be achieved by increasing advocacy of our mission, creating new educational programs and opening opportunities for new members to get involved. Since we last convened in San Francisco various groups and committees have been busy working in four areas; education, communications, international relations, and neurocritical care. There are several initiatives on the education front. As you can see, Dr. Alex Bekker and the education committee have inaugurated the [SNACC blog](#) which provides a venue to discuss challenging clinical problems. Other members of the education committee are refining the educational content of the [SNACC website](#). Dr. Greg Crosby, vice-president for scientific affairs, is organizing the program for our annual meeting which will be held in Orlando, Florida on October 17, 2008. Dr. Dan Cole, past-president of SNACC, is the chair of the Scientific Content Subcommittee on Neuro Anesthesia of the ASA. He and other members of SNACC are diligently evaluating the Neuroanesthesia content of the annual meeting of the ASA so that it complements our annual meeting. Dr. Lisa Sinz is heading a focus group on creating neuro-related scenarios for the ASA sponsored simulation program. On the have an official journal in *Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesia*. Over the years Drs. James Cottrell and John Hartung have ably nurtured the journal to its present stature as the leading international journal for our subspecialty while steadily increasing its impact factor to new highs. Dr. Andy Kofke, our vice-president for communications, has generously provided his expertise in the production of *SNACCNews* and the SNACC website. We are all indebted to Andy for his fine work and look forward to more ahead. **Drs. Martin Smith and Kristine Engelhard head the International Affairs committee and they have engaged our sister societies; DANTE (Italy), ISNACC (India), UK and ASNACC (Asia). Their goal is to promote educational and scientific collaboration between these organizations. This is certainly uncharted waters and promises to be a growth area for SNACC.** Neurocritical care is also at the core of our mission and is an area where SNACC and the ASA are vigorously promoting greater inclusion. With this in mind, the SNACC board formally accepted the United Council of Neurological Specialties (UCNS) invitation for a subspecialty membership. Drs. Ansgar Brambrink, Andy Kofke and Mike Souter have been exploring avenues for accreditation of neuroanesthesia-based neurocritical care fellowship training.

### ***Challenges ahead***

As I alluded to, we as an organization face challenges ahead. Although our finances are strong, market forces impose greater burdens on us in the future. The cost of managing our organization, conducting our annual meeting and maintaining our website increases dramatically each year. Many of our European members can attest that industry support and sponsorship have taken a reverse trend. Collectively, we are identifying new sources of income to support the annual meeting, provide travel grants for young investigators, and build a website that reflects the intellect and talent of our membership. Our major source of income continues to be membership dues. We are working on providing user friendly ways for dues payment on the website. Our current membership fluctuates around 475. Growth will only come with increased membership. We should set a goal of increasing our membership over 500! We can accomplish this in many ways. Be an advocate for SNACC in your own departments, hospital and university. Let your colleagues know about the clinical and research expertise of our membership. Inform your neuroscience colleagues about the scientific discourse in our annual meeting. Encourage your trainees to pursue a career in neuroanesthesia and critical care. Going forward we will build stronger ties with our sister societies in Asia and Europe and promote collaborations with the SNACC community. As our past-president Dr. Cor Kalkman reported in the last issue of *SNACCNews*, the breadth of our practice has grown beyond neurosurgery into neuroradiology and neurocritical care in the clinics and cognition and memory in the basic sciences. Since neuroscience serves as the fundamental and unifying basis of our mission, many members have been advocating a new moniker reflecting this notion. SNACC has several names and acronyms in the past and we should pursue a thoughtful and cautious dialog as a community before any change be made.

I would like to conclude with a personal comment on our SNACC community. When I first joined SNACC 16 years ago I never thought that I would be writing this message. SNACC was and will always be a diverse but inclusive subspecialty society. As many of you have experienced, I have learn greatly from participating in the various activities and my predecessors and mentors in SNACC. I have forged some of my most enduring friendships with members of this organization. I am honored to serve you as president of SNACC this year and proud to count on you as colleagues and friends moving forward.

Yours truly,  
Sol Soriano

## **International Neuroanesthesia Meetings**

**Neuro in Euro** : Our sister Neuroanesthesia Societies in Europe will be holding Congresses

- Professor Cor Kalkman, past-president of SNACC, will be directing the **Euro Neuro 2008** congress on **January 17-19, 2008** in Maastricht, The Netherlands. Details can be viewed at [www.euroneuro.eu](http://www.euroneuro.eu) .
- The Società Italiana Anestesia Analgesia Rianimazione Terapia Intensiva ( SIAARTI ) and Diffusione Avanzamento Neuroscienze ToscanE ( DANTE ) will be hosting the **Annual Neuro Meeting 2008** in Siena, Italy on **May 6-10, 2008**. This higsuccessful congress will feature both NeuroIntensive Care and Neuroanesthesia topics . Details can be viewed at [www.annualneuromeeting.it](http://www.annualneuromeeting.it) .

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