wssfn
World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

NEWSLETTER
2026

Letter from ***the President***

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we embark on this new year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a healthy, prosperous, and innovative 2026 to our global Functional Neurosurgery Community.

Reflecting on Buenos Aires Interim Meeting

We closed 2025 on a high note with our superb Interim Meeting in Buenos Aires. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Fabian Piedimonte for his remarkable organization, as well as to Prof. Joachim Krauss and Prof. Mojgan Hodaie for their invaluable support. The scientific program was a true testament to the richness and diversity of South American functional neurosurgery, leaving us all inspired by the excellence of our colleagues in the region.

The Road to Marseille 2026

Our focus now shifts toward the historic city of Marseille, where we will gather between 30 September - 3 October 2026 for the WSSFN Congress.

The Scientific Committee, under the leadership of Stephan Chabardes, has done a magnificent job; the preliminary program is a brilliant showcase of our community's capacity for innovation. From groundbreaking clinical trials to emerging technologies, the Marseille congress will be the epicentre of our field's evolution.

Our Mission: Unity and Diversity

Beyond the science, the primary mission of this congress is to unite Functional Neurosurgeons from every corner of the globe. We are committed to ensuring this gathering is as diverse and inclusive as possible. Our strength lies in our global perspective, and Marseille will be the place where every territory and every voice finds its seat at the table.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Harith Akram for his tireless work on our newsletters. His energy and the vitality he brings to these communications keep our community connected and informed throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you all in Marseille for what promises to be an unforgettable biennial meeting.

Sincerely,

Jean Régis
WSSFN President
Marseille, France

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World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

NEWSLETTER
2026

Letter from ***the Editor***

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we begin 2026, it is a pleasure to introduce this new edition of the *WSSFN Newsletter* and to reflect on a year of significant activity and progress across our global community.

Over the past year, the Society has continued to exemplify what defines functional neurosurgery: intellectual curiosity, technical excellence, and a strong sense of shared purpose. From the highly successful Interim Meeting in Buenos Aires to the preparations now underway for Marseille 2026, the momentum within the WSSFN is clear. This newsletter captures that energy through its reports, reflections, and educational initiatives, highlighting the breadth and maturity of our specialty.

A defining feature of this issue is our continued commitment to education and mentorship. Updates from the Stereotactic Academy, reports from international meetings, and announcements of upcoming courses and webinars all reflect a shared belief that the future of our field depends on rigorous training, openness, and the effective transfer of knowledge across generations and regions.

We have also taken important steps to strengthen how the Society communicates and connects with its members. Over the past year, the WSSFN has expanded its online presence through the launch of official LinkedIn and Instagram accounts, enabling more dynamic and timely engagement with colleagues, trainees, and the wider neuroscience community. This work has been led with great energy by Dr Vanessa Milanese, Professor Atilla Yilmaz, and Professor Patric Blomstedt, with invaluable practical support from Ms Camille Conti, our Society's primary administrator and operational lead. If you have not followed these accounts yet, this is your cue to do so immediately!

In parallel, major progress has been made on a new WSSFN website. Professors Patric Blomstedt, Jean Régis, and Atilla Yilmaz have worked closely with Christophe Schwob and the team at MCO Congrès to develop a modern, content-rich platform bringing together information on meetings, courses, past events, and webinars. I encourage you to look out for its launch in the near future.

This has also been a period of reflection. Our community was deeply saddened by the tragic and untimely death of Dr Sanjeet Grewal, a young and exceptionally talented functional neurosurgeon at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, myself included. Rest in peace, my friend.

We have also said good-bye to Dr. Marcello Reis da Silva, a much admired and respected Brazilian functional neurosurgeon who was a great presence on the Brazilian and international Radiosurgery field.

I would like to thank all contributors for the care and thought invested in this issue, and the WSSFN officers and committees for their continued leadership and dedication. I am also very grateful to Professor Jean Régis for his encouragement and support of the newsletter, and for the energy and clarity he brings to his role as President of the WSSFN. My sincere thanks also go to Natalie Ruxton and the MCO team for their tireless work in producing this newsletter with such professionalism and attention to detail.
It is a genuine pleasure to work with such an engaged international community. I hope you enjoy this edition, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Marseille later this year.

With warm regards,

Harith Akram
MBChB, PhD, FRCS

Editor-in-Chief,
WSSFN Newsletter

Consultant Neurosurgeon and Honorary
Clinical Associate Professor
Unit of Functional Neurosurgery
UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and
The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (UCLH)
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World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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XXVI ESSFN Congress (Budapest 2025)

From 24–27 September 2025, Budapest hosted the XXVI Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) at the Budapest Congress Centre. This marked the Society's return to Budapest since the historic 1988 meeting, hosted by Professor Szabolcs Tóth, one of the founding figures of the ESSFN and Vice President from 1986 to 1990.

The 2025 Congress was held with a clear objective: to strengthen international collaboration and to showcase advances that translate directly into improved patient care across the full spectrum of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery.

Attendance and international representation

The Congress welcomed 716 participants from 42 countries, reflecting its truly international scope. A total of 18 industry partners and exhibitors participated, underscoring strong engagement between the clinical–scientific community and industry.

Attendance was predominantly European (81%), with additional representation from Asia (9.5%), North America (8%), and South America (1.5%). Delegates represented a broad range of countries, with the largest contingents from France, Hungary, Germany, the United States, Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

Pre-congress activities

The scientific programme began on Wednesday, 24 September, with parallel pre-congress events:

- A **Psychiatry Meeting**, organised by Professors Zelma Kiss and Volker Coenen, focusing on contemporary psychiatric surgery, OCD targets, tractography guided interventions, and evolving surgical strategies.
- A **DBS Nursing Satellite Meeting**, organised by Russell Mills, Chair of the DBS Nurses Association, addressing paediatric and adult DBS management and programming pathways.
- An **EANS–ESSFN European Diploma of Radiosurgery course**, organised by Professor Jean Régis (*Basics of Radiosurgery*), covering radiobiology, dose delivery, and quality assurance.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony featured welcome addresses from Professor Rick Schuurman, President of ESSFN, and Professor Loránd Erőss, Congress President. Participants were formally welcomed by Professor Tamás Freund, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and recipient of the 2010 Brain Prize.

A highlight of the ceremony was a keynote lecture by Professor Marwan Hariz, reviewing the historical contributions of Hungarian neurosurgeons to stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The evening concluded with a concert by János Balázs, the internationally renowned Hungarian pianist.

Scientific programme

From Thursday onwards, the Congress ran multiple parallel scientific tracks, including:

- **Movement disorders and DBS**, with emphasis on advanced imaging, adaptive DBS, and patient-specific targeting
- **Pain surgery and neuromodulation**, including DBS, cortical stimulation, lesioning strategies, and microvascular decompression
- **Epilepsy surgery**, covering SEEG and minimally invasive and laser based approaches
- Additional tracks on **spasticity surgery, rehabilitation, imaging and neuronavigation, radiosurgery,** and a **Basics track** highlighting emerging technologies and translational neuroscience

Scientific highlights

Several key themes emerged across plenary and parallel sessions:

1.Adaptive and sensing enabled DBS
Closed loop and sensing technologies featured prominently, reflecting their transition from experimental concepts towards routine clinical practice.

XXVI ESSFN Congress (Budapest 2025)

2. Imaging and connectomics as standard tools
Tractography informed targeting and patient-specific connectivity approaches were presented as practical clinical tools, including applications in focused ultrasound and tremor surgery.

3. Artificial intelligence in functional neurosurgery
AI-based methods were discussed across multiple sessions, from pre operative planning to stimulation modelling and clinical decision support.

4. Expansion of minimally invasive techniques
The programme highlighted the maturation of minimally invasive approaches, including MR guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) for tremor and laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT) for epilepsy and selected tumours.

5. Broadening clinical indications
Emerging applications in psychiatry, vision, and network level neuromodulation were explored, including pathway guided strategies discussed during the Psychiatry Meeting.

Oral communications and posters

The scientific programme included 269 abstracts, comprising 155 oral communications, 5 plenary sessions, 15 parallel sessions, 6 lunch workshops, and over 80 poster presentations.

Society engagement and collaboration

The Congress also hosted important society level activities, including the Meeting of the WSSFN Psychiatric Committee, further strengthening international collaboration within the field.

Life Achievement Award

Following the precedent set at the Stockholm Congress with the presentation of the Olivecrona Medal to Professor Marwan Hariz, the ESSFN Officers established a new tradition: the presentation of a Life Achievement Award at each Congress. Each award is named after an eminent neurosurgeon from the host country.

At the XXVI ESSFN Congress in Budapest, the award was named in honour of Gábor Szikla, the distinguished Hungarian neurosurgeon who emigrated to Paris following the 1956 uprising and made lasting contributions to stereotactic neurosurgery.

By unanimous vote of the ESSFN Officers, the Gábor Szikla Life Achievement Award was bestowed upon **Professor Joachim K. Krauss** in recognition of his lifelong dedication and pioneering achievements in the field. The award was presented by Professor Loránd Erőss during the Congress Dinner, held at Buda Castle's Royal Riding Hall.

The award is a bronze sculpture representing a stylised human head, symbolising the target of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. It rests on a granite base and was created by BOLDI, one of Hungary's most internationally acclaimed sculptors.

Closing remarks

On behalf of the local organising committee and the ESSFN, we extend our sincere thanks to all faculty members, presenters, reviewers, industry partners, and participants for contributing to a dynamic, clinically relevant, and forward looking Congress.

We are particularly grateful to our sponsors:

- **Platinum:** Boston Scientific, Medtronic
- **Gold:** Abbott, Insightec
- **Silver:** Brainlab, Elekta

We look forward to continued international and interdisciplinary collaboration, driving innovation while maintaining patient outcomes at the centre of our surgical practice.

Professor Loránd Erőss
Director of the Institute of Neurosurgery and Neurointervention Semmelweis University, Faculty of Medicine Budapest - Hungary Member of the European Academy of Science and Art

Letter from ***the WSSFN 2025 Interim Meeting*** *Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Buenos Aires had the honour of hosting the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN) Interim Meeting from 20 to 22 November 2025 at the Universidad Católica Argentina in the beautiful Puerto Madero district. The city rose to the occasion and welcomed participants with its characteristic warmth, energy, and enthusiasm for scientific exchange.

The meeting far exceeded expectations, attracting an extraordinary number of attendees and receiving over 110 scientific contributions for presentation—an unprecedented milestone for our region. Participants arrived from more than 31 countries, with distinguished faculty representing all five continents, reaffirming the global reach and collaborative spirit of our field.

For Latin America, this meeting marked a historic milestone. It strengthened the role of our region within the worldwide functional neurosurgery community and significantly deepened ties between the WSSFN and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neurocirugía Funcional y Estereotaxia (SLANFE). The event created new bridges among functional neurosurgeons across the continent and reinforced existing collaborations, paving the way for a stronger, more integrated regional presence in future initiatives.

Beyond the outstanding academic level, the depth of discussions, and the excellence of each session, the meeting also offered space for meaningful personal interaction.

Social events provided an environment where colleagues could connect more closely, exchange experiences, and cultivate friendships that will undoubtedly continue to enrich our field.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the entire WSSFN Board, whose full presence in Buenos Aires and unwavering support from the outset were fundamental to the success of this meeting in Latin America. A very special acknowledgement goes to Moji Hodaie and Joachim Krauss, representatives of the Education Committee, who remained in constant communication and worked side by side with the local team to develop a scientific programme worthy of the high academic standards of the WSSFN.

Hosting the WSSFN Interim Meeting in Buenos Aires has been a privilege, and its impact will resonate for many years across the landscape of functional neurosurgery in Latin America.

Dr Fabián C. Piedimonte, FIPP, MATID
President, WSSFN 2025 Interim Meeting Buenos Aires
President, Fundación CENIT para la Investigación en Neurociencias
Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Buenos Aires
Permanent General Secretary, SLANFE
Member, WSSFN Board of Directors

World Society for
Stereotactic and Functional
Neurosurgery

21st WORLD CONGRESS OF STEREOTACTIC AND FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY

SAVE THE DATE

WSSFN 2026

30 September
03 October
Palais du Pharo
Marseille, FRANCE

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www.wssfn2026.org

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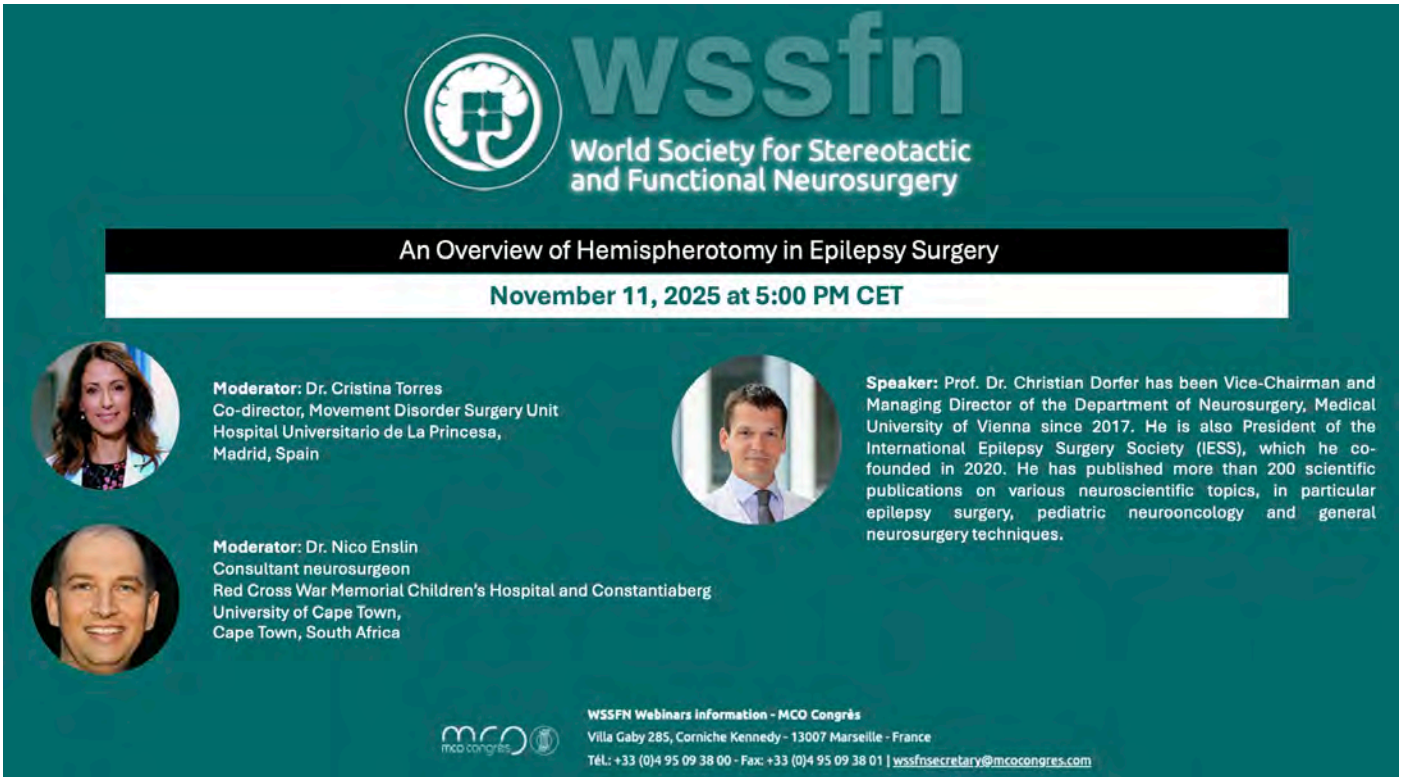
WSSFN past webinars

Thalamic Responsive Neurostimulation and Evolution in SEEG

07 July 2025 » 153 registrations

An Overview of Hemispherotomy in Epilepsy Surgery

11 November 2025 » 137 registrations



WSSFN past webinars

Engineering Brain Circuits to Treat Psychiatric Disorders

27 February 2026 » 255 registrations

WSSFN Course Series - The Basics of Science

As we have reported earlier, we are now creating a digital course cycle based on the ESSFN hands-on course cycle with 8 courses, covering the whole field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery.

The first courses, Basics of stereotactic neurosurgery & Movement disorders, have been well received, and we are now happy to announce the third course – The Basics of Science.

Here, as in the other courses, the focus is on how to do things, and the student will here, among other things, learn how to write an abstract and make a poster or an oral presentation. Further, how to write a scientific paper, review a paper or moderate a scientific session. There is, however, a lot of stuff a young scientist needs to know, and the course will be continually expanded during the coming years.

The course is free and intended for self-studies and suitable for any neurosurgeon in the beginning of their academic career. In order to spread this, we are dependent on your help, so please ask your residents and everyone that might be interested to check it up and register at the Stereotactic Academy.

>> **www.stereotactic.org**

New Courses & Lectures

- The Basics of science
- How to write an abstract
- How to give an oral presentation
- How to write your first papers: Part 1 - basic concepts
- How to write your first papers: Part 2 - How to do it
- How to write your first papers: Part 3 - Communication and collaboration
- Where to publish
- The editor's view
- What is H-index?
- How to review a scientific paper
- How to moderate a scientific session
- DBS in Tourette's syndrome by Veerle Visser-Vandewalle
- An introduction to the sIMFB by Volker Coenen
- The Leksell Vantage frame
- Vantage - a short introduction for users of the Leksell G-frame
- Radiosurgery in OCD by Jean Regis

Patric Blomstedt, MD, PhD
Professor of Stereotactic Functional Neurosurgery
President of the Swedish Society for Stereotactic Functional Neurosurgery (SSSFN)
Second secretary of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN)
Treasurer of the World Society for Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN)
Editor of the Stereotactic Academy

Reflections on a Life in Functional Neurosurgery

Neurosurgery, to me, has always lived at the crossroads of science, philosophy, and compassion. It is a discipline that demands precision yet invites wonder—a field where the scalpel meets the soul. As I look back, I speak not only as a witness to the birth of a specialty but as someone who walked through its early struggles, its revelations, and its quiet moments of grace.

The Spark That Lit the Path

My journey began in 1964 when I arrived in Boston as a young Brazilian surgeon. By day, I worked under Professor Popper in general surgery. But at night, driven by an insatiable curiosity, I slipped into the lecture halls of Harvard Medical School.
It was there that I encountered Walle Nauta, the brilliant MIT neuroanatomist whose teachings on the limbic system had never reached our classrooms in Brazil. His influence was immediate and profound.

From Nauta, I learned a staining method that revealed degenerating fibres rather than intact ones—a technique that uncovered the brain's hidden pathways. Suddenly, the nervous system appeared not as a static structure but as a living tapestry of circuits, emotions, and functions. In those late-night lectures, the seed of functional neurosurgery was planted in me, ultimately leading to my PhD research in cingulotomy.

Planting the First Seeds in Latin America

In 1972, during the World Congress in Tokyo, I made a proposal that would change the trajectory of our field: to add the word Functional to the World Society of Stereotactic Neurosurgery. That suggestion gave birth to the name we know today—the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN).

Soon, I found myself working alongside extraordinary visionaries: Narabayashi, Nashold, Gildenberg, and the great Lars Leksell.

In 1978, during the World Congress in São Paulo, we organized the first major Functional Neurosurgery Congress in Brazil. Despite initial resistance, the event drew unprecedented interest across Latin America and helped solidify our field.

Two years later, in 1980, in Guarapari, Espírito Santo, I helped found the Brazilian Society for Functional Neurosurgery, serving as its second president. At last, functional neurosurgery in Brazil had a home—a structure capable of nurturing a new generation.

A Book Born of Necessity

My experiences with international pioneers and the success of the 1978 congress inspired me to write **Functional Neurosurgery,** published in 1979. I have always believed that knowledge must be preserved and shared if a specialty is to grow strong roots. To this day, I keep the photographs, manuscripts, and remnants of those early days—physical testimonies of a discipline still in its youth.

A Message for the Future

Allow me to conclude with an image that has accompanied me throughout my career—simple in appearance, yet profound in meaning:

Many specialties deal with the human brain, as many insects rest upon the flowers of the prairie. But only the bees know how to extract the honey. The bees alone can do that job and leave the flowers intact—without hurting them or making them lose their freshness—allowing the flowers to remain exactly as they were before.

This, to me, is the essence and aspiration of functional neurosurgery: to intervene with precision, to heal without harm, and to honour the delicate beauty of the human brain.

Prof. Dr. Raul Marino Jr.
Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery, University of São Paulo (USP)
Former President, World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN), Brazilian Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (SBENF), and World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS).

Brain Stimulation Conference, Kobe 2025

The **6th International Brain Stimulation Conference** held in Kobe, Japan (February 2025) was a tremendous success, featuring many highlights relevant to our subspecialty. Notably, **Dr. Andreas Horn** received the Young Investigator Award for his groundbreaking work in revolutionizing DBS targeting and elucidating the pathways affected by DBS in multiple neuropsychiatric conditions. Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) featured prominently across numerous symposia, all proposed by attendees. Topics included:

- *Advances in adaptive DBS – from animal models to clinical practice*
- *Biomarkers for non-motor symptoms in neurological and psychiatric disorders treated with DBS*
- *Circuit-specific DBS across mental illnesses*
- *Advancing vagus nerve stimulation paradigms*
- *DBS of the nucleus basalis of Meynert to improve executive function*
- *Intraoperative cortical stimulation – principles and practice*
- *Mechanisms of PD and mood disorders – from DBS to transcorneal electrical stimulation*
- *Next-Gen personalized DBS – optimizing circuit-based biomarkers for therapy across diseases*
- *Towards "synaptomic" DBS – electrophysiological targeting of basal ganglia pathways*
- ...and many others.

As a member of the editorial board of Brain Stimulation, I am responsible for chairing the annual **"Hot Topics in DBS"** session. This year, we achieved gender balance with three women neurosurgeons from Japan (including one resident) and three men (one each from Japan, the US, and Europe).

Highlights included:

- **Dr. Yuiko Kimura** (National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Tokyo) discussed the challenges of providing psychiatric DBS in Japan. Interestingly, she noted that DBS for Tourette's syndrome is permitted because it is considered a movement disorder, whereas pure psychiatric indications remain prohibited.
- **Dr. Namiko Nishida** (Medical Research Institute of Kitano Hospital, Osaka) summarized subthalamic and other DBS targets for Parkinson's disease and tremor, sharing insights from their clinical practice.
- **Dr. Bohui Qian**, a senior neurosurgery resident at Tokyo Women's Hospital, explored whether focused ultrasound lesioning might dominate her practice over the next 20 years.
- **Dr. Shiro Horisawa** (Director of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Hospital) compared cerebellar and other targets for dystonia.
- **Dr. Bastian Sajonz** (Freiburg University Medical Centre, Germany) reviewed successes and gaps in DBS for neuropsychiatric conditions.
- **Dr. Michael C. Park** (University of Minnesota) presented advances in closed-loop DBS.

Audience questions continued so long after the session that we were eventually asked to vacate the room for the next event! The adjacent photo shows some of the speakers. I also wish to thank Professors **Yoshikazu Ugawa** and **Ritsuko Hanajima**, two local neurologists who introduced me to the speakers and supported the symposium.

Left to right: Drs. Namiko Nishida, Zelma Kiss, Bohui Qian, and Yuiko Kimura.

The Brain Stimulation Conference, held biennially, focuses on all aspects of brain stimulation. It is truly interdisciplinary, attracting scientists, engineers, and clinicians—including psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists. The meeting size is ideal for engaging in poster sessions and attending parallel symposia, ensuring there is always something new to learn. Attendance has grown from 600 delegates at the inaugural 2015 meeting to 1,600 this year. Importantly, the organization has addressed early criticisms of "egregious gender imbalance" in its program. By 2025, at least in our neurosurgery session, gender balance was achieved.

Prof. Zelma Kiss, MD, PhD, FRCSC
Professor of Clinical Neurosciences and Psychiatry,
University of Calgary
Medical Director, Neuromodulation and MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound Program

Letter from ***the President of the Middle Eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*** *(MSSFN)*

Dear Esteemed Members of the WSSFN,

It is with immense pride and deep humility that I address you as the new President of the Middle Eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (MSSFN). Assuming this role is not merely a privilege, but also a profound responsibility.

Before looking to the future, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to two exceptional leaders who paved the way for our society's tremendous progress.

First, I would like to acknowledge Prof. Walid Abdel Ghany, whose tireless efforts helped MSSFN achieve remarkable milestones. Under his leadership, the MSSFN hosted impactful conferences, empowered countless colleagues through innovative workshops, and significantly raised the standards of functional neurosurgery in our region.

A special thanks must also go to Prof. Ahmed Alkhani, the visionary pioneer behind the establishment of the MSSFN. His passion for advancing functional neurosurgery in the region is unparalleled, and his foresight laid the foundation for a thriving community of functional.

Looking ahead, I am honored to continue the legacy of these two remarkable individuals. My vision for the MSSFN is to build upon their achievements while introducing new initiatives that will further benefit our community.

I assumed the presidency of the MSSFN during the 4th MSSFN Congress and the 3rd Deep Brain Stimulation and Neuromodulation Interventions Cadaver Course Joint Meeting. This event marked the first scientific initiative of my term. Our goal is to continue organizing such impactful activities to enhance knowledge and raise awareness in the field under my leadership.

The MSSFN is more than just an organization; it is a collective mission. We are committed to advancing global standards in functional neurosurgery while working to expand access to transformative healthcare throughout the region under our responsibility.

The MSSFN's remit spans the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula, and Africa (excluding Sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa). This vast region encompasses over 2.1 billion people: an astonishing 20% of the global population. These numbers are not only remarkable but also profoundly significant. Every individual deserves access to cutting-edge treatments that align with global standards. This mission is both our purpose and our challenge.

Serving a region so vast and diverse demands collective effort. To meet this extraordinary challenge, the MSSFN will focus on education, mentorship, and community engagement. To achieve these goals, I am committed to creating robust fellowship programs for the next generation of neurosurgeons. These programs will prepare them for the future through hands-on mentorship that connects them with seasoned professionals. By doing so, we ensure that acquired knowledge is passed down effectively and sustainably.

The MSSFN will continue to organize workshops and courses focused on stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, as well as hosting congresses. These events foster collaboration, learning, and innovation across our field.

We understand that knowledge benefits not only practitioners but also patients. Increasing public awareness of the cutting-edge treatment options we offer is critical, ensuring individuals understand the hope and promise modern healthcare brings to their lives.

I invite you to share your knowledge, mentor one another, and grow our community. Every fellow we train touches thousands, if not millions, of lives. Knowledge, when shared, does not diminish; it multiplies—impacting our profession and the global health landscape alike. Together, we can elevate functional neurosurgery, expand access to innovative treatments, and positively affect the lives of billions.

To my mentors, thank you for your invaluable support. To my colleagues, friends, and family, thank you for always standing by me. And to all MSSFN members—I call on you to share your wisdom and passion, empowering others to create a ripple effect of expertise and compassion throughout our region and beyond.

Together, we can address challenges, seize opportunities, and build a brighter future.
To our esteemed umbrella society, the WSSFN, I extend my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support and guidance. The contributions and leadership of WSSFN have been invaluable in fostering collaboration and advancing the field of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery.

Letter from ***the President of the Middle Eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*** *(MSSFN)*

I would also like to express my appreciation to the WSSFN President, Prof. Jean Régis, for his unwavering dedication and visionary leadership. His commitment continues to inspire us all as we work together to push the boundaries of innovation and excellence in our field. I look forward to the WSSFN's continued support and partnership as we strive to achieve new milestones and create a lasting impact for the global neurosurgical community.

We are also eager to foster collaboration with other chapters of the WSSFN. By working together, we can share knowledge, exchange ideas, and promote advancements that benefit the entire neurosurgical community.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Atilla YILMAZ
President, MSSFN
Professor of Neurosurgery & Functional Neurosurgery
Istanbul Health and Technology University – Türkiye

FUTURE MEETINGS

ESSFN Hands-On course	11-13 March 2026	*Hannover, Germany*
17th World Congress of the International Neuromodulation Society	9-14 May 2026	*Lisbon, Portugal*
ASSFN Biennial Meeting	30 May - 2 June 2026	*Cleveland, USA*
WSSFN Congress	30 September - 3 October 2026	*Marseille, France*
ESSFN Congress	22-25 September 2027	*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Letter from the Hong Kong Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (HKSSFN) 3rd Educational Symposium

Since its inauguration on 23 December 2023, the Hong Kong Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (HKSSFN) has actively organised a range of educational activities for those passionate about stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. We have established two flagship annual events; the Summer Brain Stereotaxy Workshop and the Educational Symposium, alongside focused seminars and public talks for patients.

In January 2025, we were honoured to be accepted as an affiliate society of the World Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN), marking a significant milestone in our development.

Our 3rd Educational Symposium took place on 8 November 2025 and was an outstanding success. Continuing the tradition of excellence, we welcomed Professor Takaomi Taira, our international honorary member, who delivered sessions on microsurgical functional neurosurgery. Professor Shiro Horisawa and Dr Masahiko Nishitani shared their expertise on advances in artificial intelligence and personalised sweet spot mapping for stereotactic surgical planning in movement disorders.

This year, we were privileged to have Professor Harith Akram from University College London (UCL) lead discussions on imaging in functional neurosurgery and cancer pain management through cingulotomy.

We are deeply grateful to these global leaders for their invaluable contributions. Their participation elevated the symposium into a truly exceptional forum for learning and collaboration. As we stand at the forefront of innovation in neuromodulation and functional neurosurgery, this event continues to serve as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and professional growth.

Dr Tak-lap Poon
President, HKSSFN
Chief of Service, Department of Neurosurgery, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong

From left to right: Dr Tak-lap Poon, Dr Michael Lee, Prof Takaomi Taira, Dr Chung-ping Yu, and Harith Akram

Names from left to right: Dr Benedict Beng-teck Taw, Dr Chung-ping Yu, Miss Karen Kong, Dr Michael Lee, Harith Akram, Dr Shiro Horisawa, Prof Taira, Dr Tak-lap Poon, Dr Masahiko Nishitani, Professor WS Poon, Dr Yam Kwong Yui, Dr Jason Ho, Dr Teresa Tse

In Memoriam †
***Marcello Reis da Silva**, MD, MSc*

Dr. Marcello Reis da Silva was a gifted neurosurgeon, a devoted husband and father, and a deeply cherished member of the Brazilian neurosurgical community. A graduate of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1996), he completed his neurosurgical training at the same institution before undertaking a fellowship in Radiosurgery at La Timone Hospital in Marseille, France.

Since 2016, Dr. Reis served as the neurosurgeon director of the Gamma Knife Centre at the Brain State Institute Paulo Niemeyer, where he treated thousands of patients with exceptional skill and compassion. In addition to his leadership in radiosurgery, he was a dedicated functional neurosurgeon, active both in private practice and in academic life at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Reis was a regular presence at major national and international scientific meetings within his areas of expertise. Known for his clarity, didactic approach, and extensive experience, he was an engaging and talented speaker. His colleagues admired him for his dedication, humility, generosity, and genuine kindness. To his friends, he was fun spirited, curious, and bright, always ready to share stories from his many travels, always ready to help.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Eloá Brabo, an oncologist, and their two sons, Pedro Henrique and João Gabriel. One of his sons is currently a medical student at the same university where Dr. Reis studied and later taught an enduring testament to his legacy.

His passing represents a profound loss for the field of Functional Neurosurgery, particularly for the radiosurgery community. He will be deeply missed by his patients, colleagues, friends, and family. The ESSFN joins the global neurosurgical community in honouring the memory of this remarkable neurosurgeon, mentor, father, husband, and friend.

by Dr Alessandra Gorgulho, MD, PhD, MSc

In Memoriam †
***Dr Sanjeet S. Grewal**, MD (1987-2026)*

Dr. Sanjeet Grewal served as Director of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (MD, 2013) and Xavier University (BS in Biology, 2009), he dedicated his career to advancing functional neurosurgery with precision, vision, and integrity. At the Mayo Clinic, where he practiced full time, he led with scientific rigor and deep human warmth.

Sanjeet's life was far too short, yet profoundly meaningful. His passing leaves an ache that words can scarcely hold.

He embodied the very best of academic medicine; brilliance without arrogance, leadership without ego, and ambition shaped always by integrity. Sanjeet had a rare gift for bringing people together. He believed in collaboration, in shared growth, and in lifting others as he rose. He celebrated his colleagues' successes as if they were his own, and across institutions and professional societies, he built bridges that extended far beyond geography.

Outside the operating room and lecture halls, he was a man of remarkable warmth. His smile carried sincerity. His presence brought calm. He listened attentively, cared deeply, and moved through the world with genuine kindness.

Above all, Sanjeet was a devoted husband to Angela Grewal and a loving father to their three children: Neal (9), Aria (6) and Ryan (4). His family was the centre of his life, his greatest pride, and his deepest joy. He spoke of them with tenderness and gratitude, and everything he built, both professionally and personally, was anchored in his love for them.

There were so many plans still unfolding, so many ideas in motion, so many dreams taking shape. A tragic accident on February 7, 2026, interrupted that journey, but it did not erase his impact. The work he began, the patients he cared for, the trainees he

mentored, and the friendships he nurtured continue to carry his influence forward. Those who had the privilege of knowing him hold not only grief, but also profound gratitude for his friendship, and for the example he offered.

His life reminds us that greatness is measured not only by titles or achievements, but by character, generosity, and the quiet ways we shape the lives of others.

Sanjeet will be remembered for his brilliance, and even more for his heart. His legacy lives on in his family, in his patients, in his trainees, and in all of us who were fortunate enough to walk alongside him.

By Dr. Vanessa Milanese

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