NOF Brainwaves

Summer 2023 Edition

Healing Minds, Educational Awards, Patient Support, Fundraising Event, and ESM 2023

Healing Minds

NOF kicked off 2023 with a television broadcast of the documentary, Healing Minds. Aired on local Jacksonville TV stations, the documentary highlights the essence of NOF's work and its impact on global neurosurgery. Award winning producer, Mr. Ray Hays, accompanied the ESM 2022 team to the Philippines and captured intimate moments of hope and the determination of volunteer neurosurgeons helping people get treatment. Eloquently told, this film will move you. Missed it? No worries, you can view it here.

Educational Award: NOF-TLHF Jacksonville Traveling Fellowship

It took almost 4 years for the first NOF-TLHF Jacksonville Traveling Fellow to fulfill her award. Between pandemic lockdown, travel issues, and scheduling, we were so happy to finally welcome her to Jacksonville this past spring. Dr. Manilyn Hong is Filipino-Chinese and comes from a large family in South Cotabato, Philippines. Her journey to Jacksonville, Florida, demonstrates that resolve remained strong. She completed a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship in Canada before observing at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Health System. Her six-week stay gave her a glimpse of patient management and specialized healthcare. She also observed multidisciplinary disease management processes and procedures. Dr. Hong returned to the Philippines with the intent to start her practice in an area that is grossly underserved. We wish her the best!

Pictured left with Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation Founder, Olivia and Ron during a welcome reception for Dr. Marilyn Hong

"Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation's Traveling Fellowship, supported by the Trinity Hoblit Foundation was an exceptional opportunity for me as a young neurosurgeon, to gain exposure and hands-on experience in neurosurgical care in a high-income country setting.

Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, which is known for its world class neurosurgical care provided me an opportunity to work with experienced neurosurgeons, learn new techniques and approaches that I could adapt to my community, which currently lacks access to neurosurgical subspecialty care. The fellowship was an invaluable experience for me and I've gained valuable knowledge and skills during my time there. ...[the] program is a testament to both of their commitment to advancing health and improving access to specialized neurosurgical care. Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation helped make my experience at Wolfson Children's Hospital even more enriching and rewarding and I'm forever grateful that they have given me this opportunity." ~ Dr. Manilyn Hong

Educational Award: NOF-JGNS Global Neurosurgery Research

The second annual Global Neurosurgery Research Award was presented this past spring. NOF is proud to have collaborated with Journal of Global Neurosurgery with this award that provides opportunity to advance global neurosurgical research and build research capacity by and in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

Special thanks to Dr. Frederick Boop, St.Jude/ Children's Research Hospital, Dr. Ariana Bankley, University of New Mexico Health Science, Dr. Ramesh Grandhi, University of Utah, and Dr. Anthony Figaji, University of Cape Town, South Africa, and the editorial staff at JGNS for selecting the winners.

Congratulations! Find their work at www.journalofglobalneurosurgery.org

1st Place: "Assessment of the Prognostic Value of Helsinki Computer Tomography Score in Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Patients at Kenyatta National Hospital" - Dave Mangar, CK Muiau, A. Odhiambo, G. Mwang (Kenya)

2nd Place: "Surgical Treatment of Chronic Subdural Hematomas by the Trepanation Technique. Results of a Prospective Randomized Study between Drainage through a Trephine Hole and Two Holes" - Dahmane Elhaiech, MD., Salous Kanaky, MD., Bouchra Rhessisi, PhD., Nadia el Kadmiri, Phd., Mohamed Lmejdih, MD (Morocco)

3rd Place: "Decompressive Hemicraniectomy in Hemispheric Ischemic Stroke: A Prospective Cohort in a Brazilian Population. Does Timing Really Matters?" - Daniela Buzaglo Corcalves, Malaram Oliveira, Gabriela Campos da Silva Coutinho, Edson Bor-Seng-Shu, Wellington Silva Paiva, Manuel Jacobsen Teixeira, Paloam Cardoso Novo, Robson Luis Oliveira de Amorim (Amazonas, Brazil)

Service, Education, and Support (Patients Say Thank You)

NOF works tirelessly to help families from underserved communities to access care and treatment when they need it. Part of the solution is having access to funds so people can afford components or the entirety of their treatment. In some parts of the world, each part of a disease management process is itemized and families often select options that they can afford. At times, opting out of critical components or even opting out altogether because the cost is too high. Giving families a fund to draw from to bridge that cost gap can be a difference between life and death. We are so pleased that with our donors' generosity, two charity hospitals in the Philippines house NOF funds for indigent patients, giving them peace of mind in getting treatment. Pictured below are a few grateful patients.

Save The Date for NOF's Fundraising Event

Start planning on one of your greatest journey. A journey where you will impact lives around the world. Mark your calendars for November 4. Join Honorary Chairs, Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Kristin Pinris, for one evening to raise funds that will bring a lifetime of hope to someone suffering from a brain tumor, aneurysm, spinal cord injury, or any other neurological impairment.

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Russ Thomas who have graciously offered their hangar to hold this inspiring evening—a perfect space for this year's fundraiser themed-event, Around The World With NOF. Watch out for your invitations coming through your mail in September and remember to book early!

We thank the following for their early contributions ~
Jacqueline and Ron Dorrance-Tomlinson
JB Foundation
The Lisa Barton Team Ponte Vedra Beach
Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation
Robin Wahby Financials

Sponsorships opportunities available, please email us: events@neurosurgeryoutreach.org

ESM 2023: Mongolia

2023 marks the year when NOF begins its annual Educational Surgical Missions. This year's destination is Mongolia. Why Mongolia? Simple, the country's sole pediatric neurosurgeon asked for help: 31.2% of Mongolia's population are children (Statista), a bit over 1 million.

The medical team consists of Dr. Eylem Ocal (University of Florida), Dr. Ricardo Hanel (Neurosurgery Research), Mr. Mel Borrie, Aldana (University of Florida). This ESM will also be the first of its kind focusing only on pediatric neurosurgical cases.

Let's wish our team a successful ESM this September. Keep up with the mission by following @nofpix social media.

Grant by: Integra Foundation

NEUROSURGICAL
MISSION TO
MONGOLIA
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Neurosurgeon Eylem Ocal
Neurosurgery Research Ariana Aldana
Neurosurgery Angela Borrie
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