

Bridges of Knowledge



assfn

2026 Biennial Meeting

Preliminary
Program

May 30-June 2, 2026 • Cleveland, OH

**Register
by May 5,
2026 and
Save**



CNS

Jointly provided by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Join us in Cleveland, Ohio

The American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is excited to invite you to the 2026 ASSFN Biennial Meeting, May 30-June 2, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Daily Plenary Sessions will showcase cutting-edge topics presented by leaders at the forefront of neurosurgical innovation. This year's Plenary themes encompass Connectomics, Device Engineering and Development, Brain-Computer Interfaces and Neuroprosthetics, as well as the Future of Neurorestorative and Biological Therapies.

In addition to the Plenary Sessions, participants will have the opportunity to tailor their experience through a diverse selection of Parallel Sessions designed to cater to various research and clinical interests.

Pre-meeting Special Courses will provide valuable content for all stages of one's career, from medical students to neurosurgery trainees, as well as early and advanced career faculty.

Notable highlights include keynote speaker Paul Dolan, owner of the Cleveland Guardians, and our Honored Guest, the distinguished Dr. Aviva Abosch.

The 2026 ASSFN Biennial Meeting presents a unique opportunity to engage with innovative clinical care and research, foster collaborations in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, and gain insights from globally recognized experts—all within the vibrant and historic setting of Cleveland.

MEETING DIRECTORS



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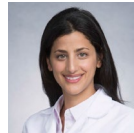
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Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio



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Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota



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Scientific Program Committee
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Scientific Program Committee
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San Diego
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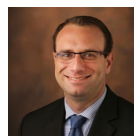
Demitre Serletis
Scientific Program Committee
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio



Timothy Denison
Scientific Program Committee
University of Oxford
Oxford, England



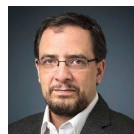
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Clement Hamani
Scientific Program Committee
Sunnybrook Research
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Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Aviva Abosch

Aviva Abosch completed her undergraduate degree at Bryn Mawr College, followed by an M.D. and Ph.D. (Neuroscience) at the University of Pittsburgh, neurosurgery residency at the University of California, San Francisco, and fellowship training in epilepsy surgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute, and in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery at the University of Toronto.

Abosch was previously on faculty at Emory University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus—where she was Vice Chair for Research in Neurosurgery. From 2019 to 2025, she was tenured Professor and Chair of the Neurosurgery Department at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), holder of the Nancy A. Keegan and Donald R. Voelte, Jr. Chair in Neurosurgery, Co-Director of the Clinical Neurosciences Service Line, Director of the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Functional, Epilepsy, and Stereotactic Surgery Program, and Director of the Fellowship Training Program in Functional, Epilepsy, and Stereotactic Surgery at UNMC.

Since 2025, Abosch has been Deputy Director of the Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience Institute (MNI), Director of Epilepsy Surgery and Co-Director of Functional Neurosurgery for Baptist Health MNI. She holds the Esernia Endowed Chair in Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy and Movement Disorders, and is Chief of Neurosurgery at Florida International University (FIU).

Abosch is a Past-President of the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ASSFN) and of Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) and currently serves as Secretary of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), Member-At-Large of the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, and as an Examiner for the American Board of Neurological Surgeons (ABNS). She also serves on the Editorial Board of *Neurosurgery* and was formerly a member of the Editorial Boards of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. She speaks nationally and internationally on her areas of clinical and research expertise. Her research in neuromodulation is funded through intramural, industry, and governmental sources, including a UH3 BRAIN Initiative award for the study of sleep in Parkinson's Disease (NINDS).



Speaker Biographies



Paul Dolan

The Dolan family's ownership of the Cleveland Guardians franchise enters its 27th season in 2026, while Paul Dolan begins his 14th campaign as the primary control person after being formally approved by Major League Baseball on Jan. 10, 2013. Paul continues to serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Guardians, roles he accepted prior to the 2011 season. He began his time with the franchise as Vice President, General Counsel upon joining the organization in 2000 and later served as the club's President from 2004-2010.

Dolan is involved in various business interests and philanthropic and civic boards throughout the Northeast Ohio community. He is currently Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and serves as a board member for The Cleveland Clinic, Playhouse Square Foundation, United Way of Greater Cleveland, and Cleveland State University.



Nicholas Schiff

Nicholas D. Schiff is an internationally recognized neurologist and neuroscientist known for his pioneering work in disorders of consciousness, traumatic brain injury, and recovery after severe brain injury. He is the Jerold B. Katz Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine and a leader in the clinical care of patients with impaired consciousness.

Schiff's research has reshaped understanding of coma and minimally conscious states through the integration of advanced neuroimaging, electrophysiology, and neuromodulation. He has played a central role in refining diagnostic and prognostic frameworks that guide patient care and inform ethical and policy discussions. A key focus of his work includes the use of deep brain stimulation to restore arousal and cognitive function in select patients.



Philip Starr

Philip Starr is the Dolores Cakebread Professor of Neurological Surgery, at the University of California, San Francisco. He was recruited to UCSF in 1998, from his fellowship at Emory University, to launch a clinical and research program in deep brain stimulation. Starr and UCSF neurologist Jill Ostrem are the directors of a multidisciplinary clinic for comprehensive care of patients with movement disorders.

His research addresses: 1) Brain network abnormalities underlying motor and nonmotor features of movement disorders. 2) Mechanisms of therapeutic deep brain stimulation. 3) The use of totally implantable neural interfaces for long term brain recording and adaptive DBS.

Program-at-a-Glance

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

6:30 am-4:00 pm
Registration

8:30 am-12:00 pm
Special Course 1:
Epilepsy Surgery
Fundamentals and Challenges

8:30 am-12:00 pm
Special Course 2:
Movement Disorder Surgery
Fundamentals and Challenges

1:00-4:00 pm
Special Course 3:
Entrepreneurship and
Innovation

1:00-4:00 pm
Special Course 4:
Medical Students: Mentorship,
Education, and Research

1:00-4:00 pm
Special Course 5:
Business of Functional
Neurosurgery and Choosing a
Job for Trainees

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

6:00 am-6:00 pm
Registration

7:00-8:00 am
Breakfast Session 1
Novel Indications for
Neuromodulation

7:00-8:00 am
Breakfast Session 2
The Role of AI-VR in Functional
Neurosurgery

8:00-9:50 am
Plenary Session 1
Connectomics in Functional
Neurosurgery

9:30 am-4:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open

9:50-10:20 am
Break with Exhibitors

10:20 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 1
Thalamic Connectivity and
Its Impact on Functional
Neurosurgery

10:20 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 2
Cortical Connectivity and
Its impact on Functional
Neurosurgery

12:00-12:50 pm
Non-CME Sponsored Lunch

1:00-3:00 pm
Plenary Session 2
Advances in Device
Engineering and Development

3:00-3:40 pm
Break with Exhibitors

3:40-6:00 pm
Parallel Session 3
Device Development: Bench to
Bedside

3:40-6:00 pm
Parallel Session 4
Novel Device Advances in
Functional Neurosurgery

6:00-8:00 pm
Opening Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

6:00 am-4:00 pm
Registration

7:00-7:55 am
Non-CME Breakfast

8:00-9:30 am
Plenary Session 3
Primed for Recovery:
Clinical Insights Shaping
Neuromodulation for
Neurorehabilitation

9:00 am-3:30 pm
Exhibit Hall Open

9:30-10:00 am
Break with Exhibitors

10:00 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 5
Neuromodulation for
Functional Recovery: DBS, SCS,
PNS, VNS

10:00 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 6
Role of BCI and
Neuroprosthesis

12:00-1:15 pm
Honored Guest Lunch
Aviva Abosch

1:15-2:45 pm
Plenary Session 4
Advances in Biological
Therapies

2:45-3:15 pm
Break with Exhibitors

3:15-5:15 pm
Poster Session with Wine and
Cheese

5:00-6:00 pm
ASSFN Business Meeting (Non-
CME)

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

6:00 am-12:00 pm
Registration

7:00-7:55 am
Non-CME Breakfast

8:00-10:00 am
Plenary Session 5
Advances in Lesioning
Modalities: HiFU, LITT and
Beyond

9:00-11:00 am
Exhibit Hall Open

10:00-10:30 am
Break with Exhibitors

10:30 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 7
Lesioning for Functional
Neurosurgeons

10:30 am-12:00 pm
Parallel Session 8
Role of Lesioning in the
Pediatric Population

12:00 pm
Meeting Adjourns

Arrive early for the ASSFN Biennial Meeting and attend the Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Surgery Dissection Workshop, May 28-29.

Visit cns.org/assfn for agenda and registration details.

Complimentary registration for Residents and Fellows

Meeting Agenda

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

8:30 am-12:00 pm

Special Course 1 **Epilepsy Surgery Fundamentals and Challenges**

\$50 Residents/Fellows
\$50 ASSFN Members and Nonmember Physicians

Course Directors: *Abigail Rao, Demitre Serletis*

Speakers: *William Bingaman, Larry Bodden, Shabbar Danish, Dawn Eliashiv, Lora Kahn, Suneil Kalia, Patrick Karas, Adrian Laxton, Viktoras Palys, Fedor Panov, Francesco Pucci, Abigail Rao, Jeffrey Raskin, Nehaw Sarmey, Jason Schwalb, Demitre Serletis, Scellig Stone, Alexander Whiting, Chengyuan Wu*

Part I. Clinical Cases: Anatomy & Surgical Approaches for Epilepsy

Disconnective Approaches - Anatomical & Disconnective Hemispherectomy
William Bingaman

Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - Neuromodulation in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy
Lora Kahn

Extra-Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - Intracranial Monitoring Techniques (e.g., SEEG incl. Thalamic sEEG, grids)
Fedor Panov

Extra-Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - Neuromodulation in Extra-Temporal Lobe Epilepsy
Abigail Rao

Disconnective Approaches - Corpus Callosotomy: LITT and Open Approaches
Jeffrey Raskin

Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - Diagnosis/ Intracranial Monitoring for Temporal Lobe Epilepsy
Nehaw Sarmey

Extra-Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - Cingulate, Opercular & Parieto-Occipital Epilepsy: Laser and Resection
Demitre Serletis

Temporal Lobe Epilepsy - LITT vs. sAH vs ATL for Temporal Lobe Epilepsy
Chengyuan Wu

Part II. Epilepsy Surgery Fundamentals and Challenges - Hands-on Session

Stereotactic Robotic & Other Frameless Technologies for SEEG

Zimmer Biomet (ROSA)
Francesco Pucci

Renishaw (Neuromate)
Suneil Kalia

BrainLab (Cirq)
Adrian Laxton

Clearpoint
Larry Bodden, Scellig Stone

Non-Resective Approaches: Laser Ablation and Neuromodulation

Monteris
Viktoras Palys, Alexander Whiting

Visualase
Shabbar Danish, Jason Schwalb

Medtronic
Dawn Eliashiv

Neuropace
Patrick Karas

8:30 am-12:00 pm

Special Course 2 **Movement Disorder Surgery Fundamentals and Challenges**

\$50 Residents/Fellows
\$50 ASSFN Members and Nonmember Physicians

Course Directors: *Sarah Bick, Erika Petersen*

Speakers: *Nicole Bentley, G. Rees Cosgrove, Shabbar Danish, Kelly Foote, Sanjeet Grewal, Shervin Rahimpour, Sepehr Sani, Aasef Shaikh, Philip Starr, Chengyuan Wu*

DBS Target Selection for Movement Disorders: DBS Target Selection for Parkinson's Disease
Shervin Rahimpour

DBS Target Selection for Movement Disorders: DBS Target Selection for Tremor
Sanjeet Grewal

Neuromodulation vs. Lesioning for Movement Disorders: Point-Counterpoint: Pro DBS
Shabbar Danish

Neuromodulation vs. Lesioning for Movement Disorders: Point-Counterpoint: Pro Lesioning
G. Rees Cosgrove

Tools for Movement Disorders Surgery Planning: Novel Targets for Movement Disorders Surgery Planning
Nicole Bentley

Tools for Movement Disorders Surgery Planning: Imaging Tools for Movement Disorders Surgery
Chengyuan Wu

Awake vs. Asleep DBS: Point Counterpoint: Awake DBS: Fundamentals and Challenges
Kelly Foote

Awake vs. Asleep DBS: Point Counterpoint: Asleep DBS: Fundamentals and Challenges
Sepehr Sani

DBS Programming: Fundamentals and Challenges
Aasef Shaikh

Adaptive DBS
Philip Starr



SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 continued

1:00-4:00 pm

Special Course 3 Entrepreneurship and Innovation

\$50 Residents/Fellows
\$50 ASSFN Members and Nonmember
Physicians

Course Directors: *Clement Hamani, Danika Paulo*

Speakers: *Clement Hamani, John Ngai, Michael Park, Danika Paulo, Carlos Pena, Ashwini Sharan, Sameer Sheth*

Introduction

Clement Hamani, Danika Paulo

Transforming Ideas into Reality: So, You Have an Idea - Who Do You Talk to Next?

Sameer Sheth

Transforming Ideas into Reality: Institutional Relations and Contract Negotiations

Kenneth Holroyd

Navigating the Regulatory Process: With a Patent in Hand: To Sell or To Start a Company

Ashwini Sharan

Navigating the Regulatory Process : Innovation Initiatives of the NIH

John Ngai

Achieving Success and Avoiding Failure: Defining and Measuring "Success" as an Entrepreneur

Michael Park

Achieving Success and Avoiding Failure: Failure to Launch: Common Hindrances to Success and How to Overcome Them

Carlos Pena

Roundtable Discussion with Question and Answer

John Ngai, Michael Park, Carlos Pena, Ashwini Sharan, Sameer Sheth

1:00-4:00 pm

Special Course 4 Medical Students: Mentorship, Education, and Research

\$0 Medical Students
\$50 ASSFN Members and Nonmember
Physicians

Course Directors: *Tyler Ball, Joseph Neimat*

Speakers: *Ellen Air, Tyler Ball, Sharona Ben-Haim, Robert Bina, David Darrow, Dario Englot, Ryder Gwinn, Graham Johnson, Joseph Neimat, Jonathon Parker*

Overview

Tyler Ball

Identifying a Mentor Early in Medical School

Robert Bina

Mentoring in Neurosurgery - The Mentor's Perspective

Joseph Neimat

Engaging Medical Students and Making the Most of the Sub-I

Graham Johnson

Engaging Medical Students and Making the Most of the Sub-I

Jonathon Parker

A Program Director's Perspective on the Application Process

Ellen Air

A Program Director's Perspective on the Application Process

Sharona Ben-Haim

Education in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Ryder Gwinn

Educational Resources for Students - Where to Start & Incorporating AI

Tyler Ball

Machine Learning in Neuromodulation

David Darrow

Incorporating Machine Learning in Research

Dario Englot

1:00-4:00 pm

Special Course 5 Business of Functional Neurosurgery and Choosing a Job for Trainees

\$0 Residents/Fellows
\$50 ASSFN Members and Nonmember
Physicians

Course Directors: *Ellen Air, Ashwin Viswanathan*

Speakers: *Ellen Air, Rushna Ali, Kevin Chen, Jason Gerrard, Nisha Giridharan, Kathryn Holloway, Efstathios Kondylis, Paul Larson, Emily Levin, Jeffrey Raskin, Michael Staudt, Ashwin Viswanathan*

Overview: Time to Settle Down - Finding the Right Job

Ellen Air, Ashwin Viswanathan

Perspectives of a New Graduate

Nisha Giridharan

Exploring the Academic to Practice-Based Spectrum

Jason Gerrard

Prioritization and Job Fit

Rushna Ali

Negotiating the Package

Jeffrey Raskin

Subspecialty Specific Considerations: Epilepsy

Efstathios Kondylis

Subspecialty Specific Considerations: DBS

Emily Levin

Subspecialty Specific Considerations: Pain

Kevin Chen

"I Have a Job, Now What?" Getting Started: Building an Interdisciplinary Team

Michael Staudt

"I Have a Job, Now What?" Getting Started: Building an "Outside" Referral Base

Paul Larson

"I Have a Job, Now What?" Getting Started: Who Bills and Where Does that Money Go?

Ellen Air

"I Have a Job, Now What?" Getting Started: Integrating Research Without Breaking the Bank

Kathryn Holloway

Meeting Agenda

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

7:00-8:00 am

Breakfast Session 1 Novel Indications for Neuromodulation

\$55

Moderators: Justin Davanzo, Clement Hamani

Speakers: Charles Conway, Kelly Foote, Konstantin Slavin, Sayed Wahezi

SCS for Non Surgical Low Back Pain
Sayed Wahezi

What Have We Learned About Close-Loop DBS?
Kelly Foote

Clinical Trials for Novel VNS Applications
Charles Conway

Advancements in Peripheral Nerve Stimulation
Konstantin Slavin

7:00-8:00 am

Breakfast Session 2 Role of AI-VR in Functional Neurosurgery

\$55

Moderators: Michael Staudt, Doris Wang

Speakers: Ausaf Bari, Sanjeet Grewal, Christopher Rozell, Nitin Tandon

VR for DBS Surgical Planning and Electrode Confirmation
Sanjeet Grewal

Machine Learning in Spinal Cord Stimulation for Chronic Pain
Ausaf Bari

Can Artificial Intelligence be Applied to SEEG Surgical Planning?
Nitin Tandon

Using Explainable AI to Extract Meaningful Markers of Psychiatric Disease States
Christopher Rozell

8:00-9:50 am

Plenary Session 1 Connectomics in Functional Neurosurgery

Moderators: Sharona Ben-Haim, Dario Englot, Jennifer Sweet

Speakers: Josue Avecillas-Chasin, Ki Sueng Choi, Michael Fox, André Machado, Cameron McIntyre, Robert Richardson, Jennifer Sweet

Introduction of Keynote Address
André Machado

Leadership Culture: Sports, Business and Community
Paul Dolan, Owner of the Cleveland Guardians



Structural Connectomes for Modeling DBS Pathway Activations
Cameron McIntyre

Connectivity-Guided Neurostimulation in Psychiatric Disorders
Ki Sueng Choi

Patient-Specific Targeting and Stimulation in Movement Disorders
Michael Fox

Connectomics to Guide Surgical Treatment in Epilepsy
Robert Richardson

Introduction of Research Award Winner
Jennifer Sweet

ASSFN Research Awardee: Thalamic Seizure Network Mapping in Patients with Medication-Refractory Epilepsy with Responsive Neurostimulation Targeting the Thalamus
Josue Avecillas-Chasin

9:50-10:20 am

Beverage Break with Exhibitors

10:20 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 1: Thalamic Connectivity and Its Impact on Functional Neurosurgery

Moderators: Wael Asaad, Nicole Bentley

Speakers: Derek George, Vibhor Krishna, Yuri Saalman, Gregory Worrell

Thalamus and Its Role in Consciousness
Yuri Saalman

Thalamic Connectivity in Adaptive Neuromodulation
Gregory Worrell

Clinical Applications of Thalamic Modulation
Vibhor Krishna

AMPLIFY Recipient: Leveraging Ultra-High Field Magnetic Resonance Imaging for StereoEEG Planning
Derek George

Open Papers

10:20 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 2: Cortical Connectivity and Its Impact on Functional Neurosurgery

Moderators: Bornali Kundu, John Rolston

Speakers: Danielle Bassett, Edward Chang, Kai Miller, Philip Ostrov, Michael Sughrue

Cortical Mapping for Neuromodulation and Resection
Edward Chang

Electrophysiological Markers of Cortical Connectivity
Kai Miller

Cortical Network Structure
Danielle Bassett

Bringing Connectomics to the OR
Michael Sughrue

AMPLIFY Recipient: Generating Movement: Neural Representation of Single versus Multi-Joint Coordination in the Precentral Gyrus
Philip Ostrov

Open Papers

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026 continued

1:00-3:00 pm

Plenary Session 2 Advances in Device Engineering and Development

Moderators: Sarah Bick, Chengyuan Wu

Speakers: Timothy Denison, Paul Ford, André Machado, Julie Pilitsis, Joshua Rosenow, Maryam Shanechi

Engineering Principles Behind Neuromodulation Systems
Timothy Denison

Emerging Technologies in Device-Based Neurosurgery
Maryam Shanechi

Regulation, Ethics and Responsible Deployment of Novel Technologies in Functional Neurosurgery
Paul Ford

Updates on Advocacy Efforts and the Impact on the Future of Neuromodulation
Joshua Rosenow

Introduction of ASSFN President
André Machado

Presidential Address
Julie Pilitsis

3:00-3:40 pm

Beverage Break with Exhibitors

3:40-6:00 pm

Parallel Session 3 Device Development: Bench to Bedside

Moderators: David Darrow, Nuri Ince

Speakers: Suneil Kalia, Kent Leyde, Erika Petersen, Vikram Rao, Katherine Scangos

Adaptive DBS Algorithms: From Wearable Discovery to Multicentre IDE Trials
Suneil Kalia

Responsive Neurostimulation 2.0: Expanding Targets and Biomarkers for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy
Vikram Rao

High-Density and Closed-Loop SCS: Engineering Better Outcomes for Neuropathic Pain
Erika Petersen

Personalized Closed-Loop DBS for Depression: A Precision-Psychiatry Road-Map
Katherine Scangos

Implantable Systems: Sensing, Telemetry, and Memory
Kent Leyde

Open Papers

3:40-6:00 pm

Parallel Session 4 Novel Device Advances in Functional Neurosurgery

Moderators: Ahmed Raslan, Joshua Rosenow

Speakers: Shadi Dayeh, Ahmed Raslan, Joshua Rosenow, Can Sarica, Jason Schwalb, Andrea Tedeschi, Douglas Weber

Introduction
Ahmed Raslan, Joshua Rosenow

Ultra High Density Cortical and Depth Systems for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Uses
Shadi Dayeh

Neural Cortical Spinal Bridges for Rehabilitation
Andrea Tedeschi

LiFU as a Neuromodulatory Agent
Can Sarica

Novel Uses of VNS
Jason Schwalb

Advances in Neural Stimulation for Neurorehabilitation
Douglas Weber

Open Papers

6:00-8:00 pm

Opening Reception

Enjoy the start of the Biennial Meeting at the Opening Reception at the Hilton Cleveland Hotel. Enjoy time reconnecting with your colleagues and friends over hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



Meeting Agenda

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

8:00-9:30 am

Plenary Session 3

Primed for Recovery: Clinical Insights Shaping Neuromodulation in Neurorehabilitation

Moderators: Rushna Ali, Nathan Rowland

Speakers: Ken Baker, Susan Harkema,
Jaimie Henderson, Leigh Hochberg, Charles
Liu

**Neuromodulation for
Neurorehabilitation: Past, Present,
Future**

Jaimie Henderson

**Next-Gen Brain Computer Interfaces:
Expanding Approaches, Functionality,
& Clinical Use Case Scenarios**

Leigh Hochberg

**Targeting the Dentate Nucleus: Deep
Brain Stimulation for Post-Stroke Motor
Recovery**

Ken Baker

**Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Stroke
Recovery: The Vivistim Experience**

Charles Liu

**Spinal Cord Stimulation for Motor and
Autonomic Recovery After Neurologic
Injury**

Susan Harkema

9:30-10:00 am

Beverage Break with Exhibitors

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 5

Neuromodulation for Functional Recovery: DBS, SCS, PNS, VNS

Moderators: Wael Asaad, Jennifer Sweet

Speakers: Jared Fridley, Mackenzie
Hagood, Nicholas Schiff, Amardeep Sekhon,
Jennifer Sweet

**Thalamic Modulation for Disorders of
Consciousness**

Nicholas Schiff

**CNS-PNS Interfaces for Motor Recovery
in Tetraplegia**

Jennifer Sweet

**Spinal Cord Interfaces for SCI Recovery
of Function**

Jared Fridley

**AMPLIFY Recipient: Neuromodulation
for Improving Lower Urinary Tract
Function in a Large Animal Model of
Peripheral Nerve Injury**

Amardeep Sekhon

**AMPLIFY Recipient: From Records to
Recovery: AI-Driven Identification of
Stroke Patients for VNS-enhanced
Rehabilitation**

Mackenzie Hagood

Open Papers

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 6 Role of BCI and Neuroprosthesis

Moderators: Timothy Denison, Jon Willie

Speakers: David Brandman, James D.
Guest, Douglas Weber, Francis Willett

**Decoding Speech for a Voice-Synthesis
Neuroprosthesis**

David Brandman

**Spinal Cord-Computer Interface for
Motor Recovery**

Douglas Weber

**Advances in Self-Calibration of
Communication Implantable BCI**

Francis Willett

**Role of Brain and Spinal-Computer
Interface for Gait Deficits**

James D. Guest

Open Papers

12:00-1:15 pm

Honored Guest Lunch

Aviva Abosch



MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026 *continued*

1:15-2:45 pm

Plenary Session 4

Advances in Biological Therapies

Moderators: Paul Larson, Doris Wang

Speakers: Sharona Ben-Haim, Kim Burchiel, Kunal Gupta, Paul Larson, Steven Ojemann, Bryan Roth

Introduction to Cell and Gene Therapies: An Overview
Sharona Ben-Haim

Cell and Gene Therapy for Parkinson's Disease: An Overview of Current Clinical Trials and Existing Data
Steven Ojemann

Cell and Gene Therapy for Epilepsy: Current and Future Trials
Kim Burchiel

Cell and Gene Therapy for Chronic Pain and Other Disorders

Bryan Roth

Delivery of Advanced Biologics into the Brain: Study Startup and Technical Surgical Considerations
Kunal Gupta

Biologic Therapies: Future Technology, Routes of Transmission, and Clinical Indications
Paul Larson

Conclusion and Future Directions
Paul Larson

2:45-3:15 pm

Beverage Break with Exhibitors

3:15-5:15 pm

Poster Session with Wine & Cheese

Moderators: Nicole Bentley, Kevin Chen, Justin Davanzo, Islam Fayed, Jason Gerrard, Clement Hamani, Lora Kahn, Suneil Kalia, Dorian Kusyk, Peter Konrad, Athar Malik, Danika Paulo, Ahmed Raslan, Doris Wang, Alexander Whiting

5:00-6:00 pm

ASSFN Business Meeting

Presiding Officer: Julie Pilitsis

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

8:00-10:00 am

Plenary Session 5

Advances in Lesioning Modalities: HIFU, LITT and Beyond

Moderators: Ellen Air, Julie Pilitsis

Speakers: Clement Hamani, Michael Kaplitt, Ian Lee, Nir Lipsman, Ahmed Raslan, John Rolston

Bilateral Parkinson's Disease: When HIFU is the Right Choice
Michael Kaplitt

Who Should Be Doing HIFU for Movement Disorders
Clement Hamani

Optimizing HIFU Lesions: Shape, Size, and Managing SDR
Ahmed Raslan

Optimizing LITT as First Line Treatment for Epilepsy
John Rolston

LITT for Insular and Other Deep Tumors
Ian Lee

HIFU for Psychiatric Disease
Nir Lipsman

10:00-10:30 am

Beverage Break with Exhibitors

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 7

Lesioning for Functional Neurosurgeons

Moderators: Shabbar Danish, Richard Rammo
Speakers: Peter Konrad, Joseph Neimat, Nitesh Patel, Nehaw Sarmey, Konstantin Slavin

The Evolution of Ablative Neurosurgery in Modern Day Movement Disorders
Peter Konrad

Lesioning in Epilepsy Surgery: Lessons Learned
Nehaw Sarmey

Open and Percutaneous Approaches in Ablative Spinal and Facial Pain Surgeries
Konstantin Slavin

Ablation for Brain Tumors: Role of a Functional Neurosurgeon
Nitesh Patel

Improving Lesioning Techniques with Advanced Imaging
Joseph Neimat

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Parallel Session 8

Role of Lesioning in the Pediatric Population

Moderators: George Ibrahim, Demitre Serletis

Speakers: Daniel Curry, George Ibrahim, Chima Oluigbo, Charles Stevenson

HIFU in Cerebral Palsy
Chima Oluigbo

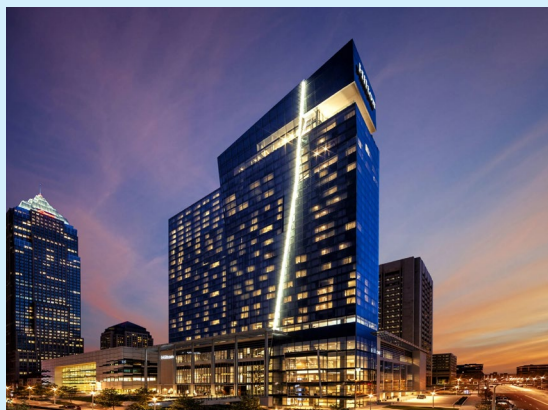
Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy for Spasticity
Charles Stevenson

SEEG-Guided Radiofrequency Ablation in Pediatric Epilepsy
George Ibrahim

Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy in Pediatric Epilepsy
Daniel Curry

Panel Discussion and Question and Answer
Daniel Curry, George Ibrahim, Chima Oluigbo, Charles Stevenson

General Information



Meeting Location

Hilton Cleveland Downtown
100 Lakeside Avenue East
Cleveland, OH 44114
833-314-5572

Hotel Reservations

To book a reservation at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown at the discounted group rate of \$219 per night, please go to www.mcievents.com/assfn2026 or call 972-349-5539 or email us at assfncns@mcievents.com and reference the "2026 ASSFN Biennial Meeting". The group rate is available until May 5, 2026, subject to availability. Cancellations made within 48 hours prior to arrival will result in forfeiture of your one-night room and tax deposit.

Deposit

Our official ASSFN Biennial Housing provider will not be taking a deposit at the time that your reservation is made. When booking your hotel, a credit card is required to secure your reservation and will be sent to the hotel along with your reservation on May 5, 2026. The hotel will retain your deposit in the event of a cancellation within 48 hours of arrival or no-show. You will also be required to provide a credit card upon check-in.

Hotel Changes and Cancellations

Starting May 5, 2026, changes and cancellations must be made directly with the hotel. Cancellations made within 48 hours prior to arrival will result in forfeiture of your one-night room and tax deposit.

Meeting Registration

Register today at
<https://www.mcievents.com/assfn2026>

What's included in the Registration Fee?

Medical registration includes the following:

- Daily Continental Breakfasts
- Daily Beverage Breaks
- Daily Plenary and Parallel Sessions
- Entrance to the Exhibit Hall
- One ticket to the Sunday Opening Reception
- Admittance to the Poster Session with Wine & Cheese on Monday

Registration Cancellation/Refund Policy

All refund requests must be received in writing by May 5, 2026.

Please email your request to assfncns@mcievents.com

Or mail your request to:

ASSFN Registration Center
6100 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 3500
Plano, TX 75093

Cancellations made on or before May 5, 2026

Receive a full refund less a \$100 processing fee. Pre-meeting course registration fees will be refunded in full until this date.

Cancellations made after May 5, 2026 and no-shows

No refunds will be issued after this date for registration and pre-meeting courses regardless of the cause.

Americans with Disabilities Act/Special Needs and Requests

The ASSFN wishes to take the necessary steps to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than any other individual because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. Please let us know if, under the ADA, you require special accommodation or services in order to attend the ASSFN Biennial Meeting.

Your requirements should be sent directly to the ASSFN Registration Center at assfncns@mcievents.com, or call 972-349-5539. Please provide any request at least 30 days prior to the Biennial Meeting to guarantee accommodation.

Registration Fees

Physicians

	Register by May 5	Register after May 5
ASSFN Member Physician (includes foreign ESSFN/WSSFN members-subject to verification)	\$750	\$850
Non-Member Physician	\$845	\$945
Non-Member Physician: Join ASSFN and Register (Includes \$300 membership application fee)	\$1,050	\$1,150

Non-Physicians: PhD, RN/NP/PA

Undergraduate/Graduate Student/Medical Students	Complimentary	\$50
ASSFN Associate Member, Non-Physician (PhD, RN/NP/PA)	\$375	\$475
Non-Member Associate, Non-Physician (PhD, RN/NP/PA)	\$525	\$625
Non-Member Associate, Non-Physician, Join ASSFN and Register (PhD, RN/NP/PA) (Includes \$160 Membership Application Fee)	\$535	\$635

Residents/Fellows

Resident/Fellow (with Letter from Program Director)	\$325	\$425
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Corporate

Corporate Representative	\$3,750	\$4,000
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Additional Courses

	Residents/ Fellow	ASSFN Members/ Non-Member Physicians
Saturday, May 30, 8:30 am-12:00 pm Special Course 1: Epilepsy Surgery Fundamentals and Challenges	\$50	\$50
Saturday, May 30, 8:30 am-12:00 pm Special Course 2: Movement Disorder Surgery Fundamentals and Challenges	\$50	\$50
Saturday, May 30, 1:00-4:00 pm Special Course 3: Entrepreneurship and Innovation	\$50	\$50
Saturday, May 30, 1:00-4:00 pm Special Course 4: Medical Students: Mentorship, Education, and Research	\$0	\$50
Saturday, May 30, 1:00-4:00 pm Special Course 5: Business of Functional Neurosurgery and Choosing a Job for Trainees	\$0	\$50
Sunday, May 31, 7:00-8:00 am Breakfast Session 1: Novel Indications for Neuromodulation	\$55	\$55
Sunday, May 31, 7:00-8:00 am Breakfast Session 2: The Role of AI-VR in Functional Neurosurgery	\$55	\$55

Accreditation

2026 ASSFN Biennial Meeting Learning Objectives

- Explain the indications, appropriate use, and limitations of Stereoelectroencephalography
- Interpret the indications, appropriate use, and limitations of laser ablation
- Classify the indications, appropriate and limitations of responsive neuromodulation
- Examine the indications, appropriate use, and limitations of deep brain stimulation

Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation Statement

The CNS designates this live activity for a maximum of 27.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CME Credit

*A maximum of 20.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ may be earned for Scientific Sessions only.

Additional CME credits can be earned by attending the optional Saturday half-day courses (6.5 credits).

Physician Assistant/Physician Extender: Attendees will receive credits for attendance at the general Scientific Sessions and for any optional events attended. Each physician assistant/physician extender should contact his or her individual membership association and certification board to determine the requirements for accepting credits. All attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

AMA Direct Credit for Preparing Poster Presentation(s)

Physicians may claim AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ directly from the AMA for preparing a poster presentation, which also includes the published abstracts. Physicians may claim them on their AMA PRA certificate application or apply directly to the AMA for an AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ certificate.

Please visit the AMA Ed Hub for more information.

Non-CME Sessions

Per the ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, all NON-CME sessions at the 2026 ASSFN Biennial Meeting will be held in a separate room from accredited continuing education.

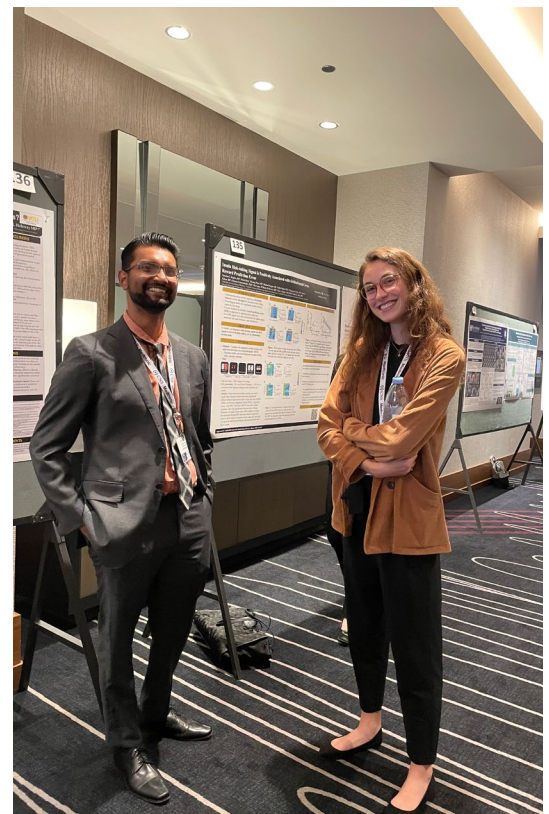
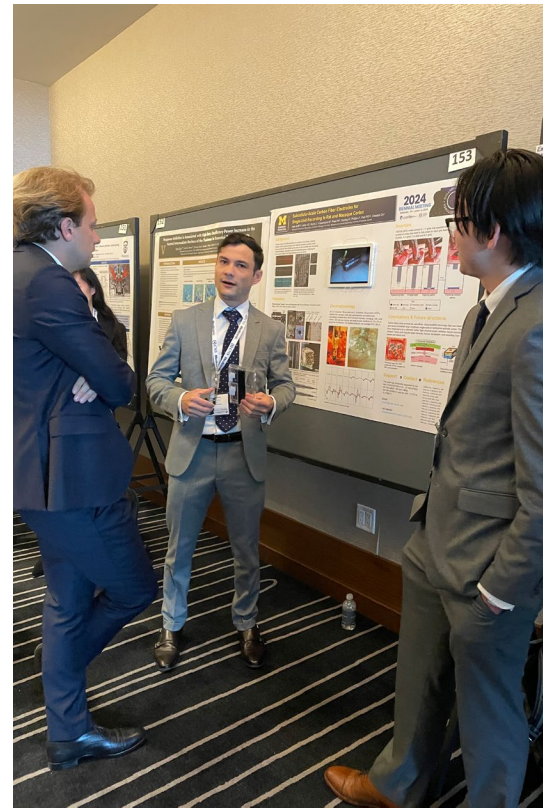


Exhibit Hall Hours

- Sunday, May 31: 9:30 am-4:00 pm
- Monday, June 1: 9:00 am-3:30 pm
- Tuesday, June 2: 9:00-11:00 am

Beverage Breaks in the Exhibit Hall:

Sunday, May 31

9:50-10:20 am
3:00-3:40 pm

Monday, June 1

9:30-10:00 am
2:45-3:15 pm

Tuesday, June 2

10:00-10:30 am

Industry Sponsored Symposia

Sponsored Breakfast Symposia

Monday, June 1 7:00-8:00 am
Tuesday, June 2 7:00-8:00 am

Sponsored Lunch Symposium

Sunday, May 31 12:00-1:00 pm

Exhibitors *(as of January 2026)*

Ad-Tech Medical

Alpha Omega

Boston Scientific

Brainlab

DIXI Medical USA Corp

FHC Inc. / Neuralynx

Insightec

LivaNova

Medtronic

Monteris Medical

NeuroPace

PMT Corporation

RebrAln

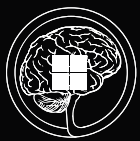
ZAP Surgical



American Society for Stereotactic
and Functional Neurosurgery
10 N. Martingale Road, Suite 190
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2294



Bridges of Knowledge



assfn

**2026 Biennial
Meeting**

May 30-June 2, 2026 • Cleveland, OH

**Register
by May 5,
2026 and
Save**



CNS

Jointly provided by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the
American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery