

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Through the Lens: CNS 2022



From throwing pitches to pitching presentations, BCM Neurosurgery was well represented at the 2022 Congress of Neurological Surgeons annual meeting. The conference, which was held October 8-12 in San Francisco, also served as the backdrop for the annual BCM Neurosurgery Alumni Reception. It was great to see so many familiar faces!

## Chair's Message



Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! Thank you for reading the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Neurosurgery Alumni Newsletter. The new year brings new additions and opportunities to the Department. We are excitedly awaiting the arrival of two new McNair Scholars to the Department, Drs. Sarah Heilbronner and Ben Hayden. Drs. Heilbronner and Hayden were recruited from the University of Minnesota and will be bringing their respective research programs to BCM. We look forward to fruitful and productive collaborations with them. Current NIH funding for the Department of Neurosurgery is over \$12 million, putting us well within the top ten of all neurosurgery departments in the country. As we continue to expand our research footprint, I expect this ranking to continue to rise.

We are also close to Match Day 2023. We are one of the largest programs in the US, training four residents per year. We also offer subspecialty fellowships in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery and endovascular neurosurgery. The training program continues to be one of the most well regarded in the country. The latest ranking of programs places us in the top ten percent of all programs based on reputation. Our recent graduates have taken positions at prominent academic centers around the country.

Our clinical offerings are also expanding across all hospitals. We recently performed the first awake craniotomies at Ben Taub and the VA Medical Center. We have leveraged technology as well as robotic surgery being offered at Texas Children's Hospital, the Michael E. DeBakey VA, and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. Many of our sites offer interstitial thermal therapy as well for the treatment of tumors and epileptic foci. Finally, our spine center at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center continues to actively offer surgical and non surgical treatments to patients with neck and back pain.

Thank you for being an active alum of the Department of Neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine. We are thrilled for what the next year holds for us. Please stay in touch with us through social media as well as Alumni Connect to keep up with the latest news and updates.

## Jacob Cherian, M.D.

Class of 2018



Join us in wishing BCM Neurosurgery alumnus Jacob Cherian, M.D. the best of luck as he prepares to take his board examinations! We caught up with Dr. Cherian, who discusses this special milestone.

## Alumni Spotlight

### **Q: What is the significance of this moment in your career?**

A: Taking my boards is a major personal and career milestone. It feels like the culmination of my training and the final test before becoming a recognized and independent neurosurgeon. I am grateful for my training at BCM for helping me take on very challenging cases in my first three years of attending practice. I am eager now to have that experience validated by the ABNS.

### **Q: What general advice would you give to all our current residents as they continue their educational journey?**

A: Trust the process. It takes seven years to finish residency, but in the end, the process works and will pay off. I received fantastic training at BCM. After two years at Emory for fellowship and then nearly three years in academic specialized practice, I can still say that at least a solid 80% of who I am as a neurosurgeon was built in our residency program. I am very grateful to my mentors at BCM for gifting me with the skills, knowledge, and confidence I use every day.

## Publications

Gadot R, Anand A, Verla T, Muir M, Winocour SJ, Reece EM, Ropper AE. Complex Wound Closure in Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery Reduces Complications in High-Risk Patients. *World Neurosurg.* 2022 Jun. [Available here.](#)

Lazaro TT, Katlowitz KA, Karas PJ, Srinivasan VM, Walls E, Collier G, Raza SM, Curry DJ, Ropper AE, Fuentes A, Gopinath SP, Rao G, Patel AJ. The impact of a night float system on operative experience in neurosurgery residency. *J Neurosurg.* 2022 Sep 9:1-7. [Available here.](#)

Ravindra VM, Karas PJ, Lazaro TT, Coorg R, Awad AW, Patino I, McClernon EE, Clarke D, Cairampoma Whitehead L, Anderson A, Diaz-Medina G, Houck K, Katyayan A, Masters L, Nath A, Quach M, Riviello J, Seto ES, Sully K, Agurs L, Sen S, Handoko M, LoPresti M, Ali I, Curry DJ, Weiner HL. Epilepsy Surgery in Young Children With Tuberous Sclerosis Complex: A Novel Hybrid Multimodal Surgical Approach. *Neurosurgery.* 2023 Feb 1;92(2). Epub 2022 Nov 10. [Available here.](#)

Reddy S, Flores A, Lee S, Shetty A, Shah D, Heck KA, Jalali A, Mandel JJ, Patel AJ. EWSR1-PATZ1 Fusion Gene in Ependymoma: A Report of Two Adult Cases and Systematic Review of Literature. *JCO Precis Oncol.* 2022 Dec 6. [Available here.](#)

Salem MM, Srinivasan VM, Tonetti DA, Ravindran K, Taussky P, Yang K, Karahalios K, Raygor KP, Naylor RM, Catapano JS, Tavakoli-Sabour S, Abdelsalam A, Chen SH, Grandhi R, Jankowitz BT, Baskaya MK, Mascitelli JR, Van Gompel JJ, Cherian J, Couldwell WT, Kim LJ, Cohen-Gadol AA, Starke RM, Kan P, Dehdashti AR, Abila AA, Lawton MT, Burkhardt JK. Microsurgical Obliteration of Craniocervical Junction Dural Arteriovenous Fistulas: Multicenter Experience. *Neurosurgery.* 2023 Jan 1;92(1):205-212. [Available here.](#)

## Neurosurgery News

### Have an update?

We enjoy celebrating our alumni and all of their accomplishments. From career moves to publications, life milestones and more, email [nsprograms@bcm.edu](mailto:nsprograms@bcm.edu) to share your good news with us!

31<sup>st</sup> Annual

## George Ehni Lectureship

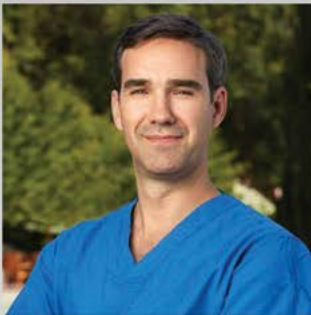


Image courtesy of: med.stanford.edu

All BCM Neurosurgery alumni are invited to join us on Friday, May 5 for our 31<sup>st</sup> annual George Ehni Lectureship. BCM Neurosurgery is excited to welcome **Juan Carlos Fernandez-Miranda, M.D.**, Professor of Neurosurgery and Surgical Director of the Stanford University Brain Tumor, Skull Base, and Pituitary Center, as this year's honorary speaker.

This annual multi-day workshop has been taking place over 20 years and honors the late Dr. George Ehni. This visiting professorship combines a series of lectures with a hands-on workshop with microsurgical cadaver dissections in the Baylor anatomy lab. Email [nsprograms@bcm.edu](mailto:nsprograms@bcm.edu) for more information or to RSVP.

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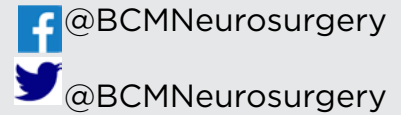
## Alumni Reunion

Baylor College of Medicine's Alumni Reunion returns in person for the first time since 2019, and we look forward to welcoming all BCM Neurosurgery alumni back to Houston. The Reunion will be held April 20-22 at Hotel ZaZa — Houston Museum District. To learn more and to register online, visit [bcm.edu/reunion](http://bcm.edu/reunion).

We hope to see you there!

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**This newsletter is a publication  
of The Department of Neurosurgery at  
Baylor College of Medicine.**



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please e-mail:

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Neurosurgery  
Ehni Fund

Named after George Ehni, who founded the Baylor College of Medicine neurosurgical residency program in 1958, the Ehni Fund benefits the Department's Residency Program and covers written board examination fees each year for approximately ten residents. Additionally, the Fund covers surgical loupes, lead aprons, textbooks, and travel expenses for residents whose abstracts are accepted for presentation. Such support empowers residents to focus on education and developing their skills without having to worry about the mounting costs of study. Baylor is grateful for the generosity that created this Fund, which furthers the work of exceptional Baylor physician-scientists.

**[Click here to make a gift.](#)**