



## NREF News

June 2015, Number 3

### Neurosurgical Relief for Nepal

The recent earthquakes in Nepal have caused widespread devastation and more than 7,000 deaths. The **survivors critically need neurosurgical care**. The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF), in collaboration with the American Association of South Asian Neurosurgeons (AASAN) and the World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS), has created a [Nepal Relief Fund](#) to collect individual and corporate contributions to the relief effort and to facilitate the donation of equipment and supplies from companies. This joint effort is led by the AASAN, which is a United States-based organization committed to national and global neurosurgical efforts. Please generously support this effort!

Ketan R. Bulsara, MD, FAANS  
 Praveen V. Mummaneni, MD, FAANS  
 Shekar N. Kurpad, MD, PhD, FAANS  
 Laligam N. Sekhar, MD, FAANS  
 Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS

[ [back to coverage](#) ]

### NREF Donor Reception at the 83rd AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

The NREF hosted a donor reception at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, on Monday, May 4, 2015, in conjunction with the 2015 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting. The reception was an opportunity for donors to mix and mingle with staff, board members and industry partners. Recent additions to the Cushing Circle of Giving were awarded their recognition pins. Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS, chair of the NREF, spoke, as did Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FAANS; Regis W. Haid Jr., MD, FAANS; Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD, FAANS; and Frederick G. Barker, MD, FAANS, explaining the mission of NREF and thanking donors for their ongoing support.

Photos from the event can be accessed [here](#). While there is a charge to purchase photos, images from this event and other events at the 2015 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, can be viewed for free.

[ [back to coverage](#) ]

Make a Donation

Learn More

### Why I Give

*I give to NREF to improve the care I can offer my patients; I give to NREF to help expand the scientific curiosity of the best and brightest young physicians; I give to NREF to advance the science and understanding of nature that we all need to know; I give to NREF because I love my profession. Please give to NREF: for your patients, for the future and for neurosurgery.*

Gary M. Bloomgarden  
 MD, FAANS

## The Inaugural Bagan Family Fellowship Awarded, Funds Research into Fatal Childhood Brain Tumors

The conferral this year of the inaugural Bagan Family Fellowship marks significant achievements for the NREF, Merwyn Bagan, MD, MPH, FAANS(L); and his wife, Carol. The new *Young Clinician Investigator Award*, endowed by the Bagans, creates a permanent tribute to Merwyn Bagan's globe-spanning dedication to medicine, neurosurgery and neurosurgical education throughout his professional career.



The award supports junior faculty who are pursuing careers as clinical investigators. Applicants must be neurosurgeons within two years of finishing their clinical training and who are full-time faculty in a teaching institution located in North America.

Fund awardee Amanda Muhs Saratsis, MD, assistant professor of neurological surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and an attending physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Hospital of Chicago, will examine the underpinnings of pediatric brainstem glioma. Saratsis hopes to identify potential therapeutic targets and biomarkers of this disease that will improve clinical diagnosis and management.

"This award could not have come at a better time, and I am so incredibly grateful," Saratsis said, explaining that receiving private foundation support helped her clear one of the last major hurdles to qualify for large-scale, multi-year funding from public sources, such as the National Institutes for Health (NIH).

To read more, [click here](#).

[ [back to coverpage](#) ]

### New Mentors Honored Through NREF

With the addition of the Dr. Warren C. Boop Jr. Family Fund and the memorial funds for Andrew Parsa, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Charles Kuntz IV, MD, FAANS, the number of Honor Your Mentor funds has increased to 14, with more funds poised to open over the next several weeks.

Visit [here](#) to see the full listing of existing funds. If you don't see your mentor among those being honored, email [info@nref.org](mailto:info@nref.org) to get information about setting up a fund.

[ [back to coverpage](#) ]

### Calling ALL NREF Grantees: The Abstract Center Is Now Open

If you have received support from the NREF for your research, please

consider submitting an abstract for the 84th AANS Annual Scientific Meeting.

The educational program for the meeting will include the presentation of scientific data in general and subspecialty section sessions as oral presentations and electronic posters. Abstracts submitted for the 84th AANS Annual Scientific Meeting are peer-reviewed and scored on scientific merit, originality and relevancy to the field of neurosurgery. Although scientific data is important, the quality of the abstract is the primary determinant for acceptance by the AANS Scientific Program Committee. Accepted abstracts are assigned to be presented as either an oral presentation or electronic poster.

To learn more or to submit, please click [here](#).

[ [back to coverage](#) ]

### **Why I Give to NREF**

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– Gary M. Bloomgarden, MD, FAANS

*If you would like to share your Why I Give story, please email it to [fcs@aans.org](mailto:fcs@aans.org). We will be sharing these on [www.nref.org](http://www.nref.org).*

[ [back to coverage](#) ]

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American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852  
888.566.2267 or 847.378.0500