



NREF Newsletter News

Message From Jon Robertson



The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) is dedicated to enhancing neurosurgical care through research and education. Individual neurosurgeons, private and academic group practices, corporate sponsors and public donors all have a stake in this mission. Your support may be driven by a desire to provide outstanding resident education and grants for neuroscience research in academic programs, to train neurosurgeons in private practice in new and existing neurosurgical treatments or to support research in

clinical outcome studies. Regardless of what inspires you, the NREF is committed to developing educational and research opportunities that will impact all stages of a neurosurgeon's career. We encourage you to take ownership of these opportunities for giving and to expect a good return on your investment. Now, more than ever, the NREF needs your financial support to impact the future of all practicing neurosurgeons.

Gary P Rejebian, Chief Development Officer



Greetings! As NREF's chief development officer, I'm pleased to present this new publication, which is one of many initiatives to communicate the tremendous impact that every donation, small or large, can have — on the life of a young doctor, an individual patient and an entire community of people with a particular condition.

I am proud to bring to my role a career as a professional society and corporate relations executive, along with experience on the team serving donors to the neurosciences at the University of Chicago Medicine. I'm joined in this effort by my colleagues, Filomena Spero, our associate director of development, who brings a career in higher education fundraising to the NREF, and Sourma Khoury, whose expertise as the foundation's grants and fellowships administrator, was honed at the University of California.

Thank you for your support of neurosurgical education and research through the NREF. We look forward to working with you!

Donor Profile: The Bagan Family

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Scientific
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#1344**

Charles Kuntz IV (1964 - 2015)

The NREF mourns the sudden passing of esteemed spine surgeon Charles Kuntz IV, MD, FAANS, of the Mayfield Clinic, Cincinnati. Dr. Kuntz was highly regarded for his clinical expertise in ameliorating severe spinal deformities, for his research accomplishments, and for mentoring spine fellows and residents. A memorial fund in his honor has been established at NREF to support spine research. [Click](#)

The conferral this year of the inaugural Bagan Family Fellowship marks significant achievements for the NREF and Merwyn Bagan, MD, MPH, FAANS(L), and his wife, Carol. As NREF's largest donation from a single family, the Bagans' extraordinary gift sets an example for others to emulate by joining the Cushing Circle of Foundation supporters. 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.



[here for more information](#)

Bagan earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his medical degree from Boston University in 1962. He completed his neurosurgical training at the National Institutes of Health and The Johns Hopkins Hospital. In private practice until 1993, he served as president and chairman of Healthsource New Hampshire (1985-1993) and chairman of Healthsource, Inc. (1985-1997). In 1995, he received a master's degree in public health from Boston University's School of Public Health.

In 1995, the Bagans moved to Nepal, where he worked as a volunteer at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH). He was named visiting professor at the Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine's Department of Surgery in 1997, establishing a neurosurgical unit there and training two general surgeons to become neurosurgeons. Bagan was instrumental in obtaining more than \$1 million in medical equipment for the hospital. In recognition of his contributions, His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal presented Bagan with the Suprabala Gorkha Dakshin Bahu Award.

In addition to his contributions to neurosurgical practice, Bagan also has played an active leadership role in several professional medical associations, having served as president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the New Hampshire Medical Society. He was treasurer and vice chairman of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies and a member of the American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for Neurological Surgery. He has received numerous awards for his work over the years, including the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Distinguished Service Award, the Boston City Hospital Ether Prize, the Alumni Award from Boston University and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Boston University School of Medicine.

In honor of his accomplishments and outstanding service to the development of neurosurgery and care of needy patients in Nepal, the AANS honored Bagan with the 2000 Humanitarian Award.

Why I Give to NREF

The NREF is one of the most important initiatives in organized neurosurgery which supports fundamental research in the neurosurgical sciences. I have always considered supporting NREF a priority because I know my donation will go towards supporting neurosurgery residents and fellows around the continent who are doing groundbreaking research in areas of need in our specialty.

- James T. Rutka, MD, FAANS

If you would like to share your Why I Give story, please email it to fcs@aans.org. We will be sharing these on www.nref.org.

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