

Welcome to the NREF Newsletter

March 2016, Number 2

Looking Ahead in 2016

As was mentioned in an email last month, for the past five and a half years, we have been working closely with Dr. Rhoton to preserve his legacy in the best possible way. Dr. Rhoton wanted his body of work to reach as many people as possible. Therefore, [The Rhoton Collection®](#) was established to curate his material and make it available for free throughout the world.

The implications of this work have already extended far beyond our original vision. For example, the *Journal of Neurosurgery (JNS)* has introduced a new feature that links select articles on the *JNS* website directly to The Rhoton Collection. This addition provides a detailed, neuroanatomical learning experience for those reading American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group (JNSPG) journals.

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Cushing Circle Lounge: A Benefit to Donors at the 2016 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

Last year at the 2015 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, the NREF debuted the Cushing Circle Donor Lounge. The Lounge, this year located at street level in the convention center, provides a quiet oasis for Cushing Circle members to grab refreshments, find a comfortable chair or enjoy a quiet place to chat. The Lounge will be open from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, and 7 a.m.-noon on

NREF Partners with B*CURED for Brain Cancer Research

The NREF Board of Directors is pleased to announce a partnership with B*CURED, a non-profit organization based in Greenwich, Conn.

B*CURED was founded in 2008 by Melissa Salamé and Debbie Needle after each lost a parent to brain cancer. The organization's primary goal is to help find a cure for brain cancer through research grants.

Make a Donation

Learn More

Visit NREF at the 2016 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting taking place April 30-May 4, 2016, at McCormick Place West in Chicago. We'll be in the AANS Resource Center. Come learn about how the NREF is supporting groundbreaking neurosurgical research and educational opportunities for neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers.

Wednesday.

Read more [here](#).

The 13th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2016
Central Park, New York City

The 13th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament, which fields 32 teams from across the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean and is hosted by Columbia University, is planned for Saturday, June 11, 2016. This date has been designated as “Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament Day” in the city of New York by Mayor Bill de Blasio, with proceeds benefiting the NREF.

Read more [here](#).

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A Remarkable Contribution from Brainlab

The NREF Board of Directors is pleased to announce a substantial gift from Brainlab to the Andrew Parsa, M.D., “Honor Your Mentor” fund.

Dr. Parsa, a renowned neurosurgeon, distinguished scholar and groundbreaking scientist, passed away suddenly on April 13, 2015. Dr. Parsa served as the Michael J. Marchese Professor and chair of Neurological Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.

Read more [here](#).

To view a list of
NREF's Supporters,
[click here](#).

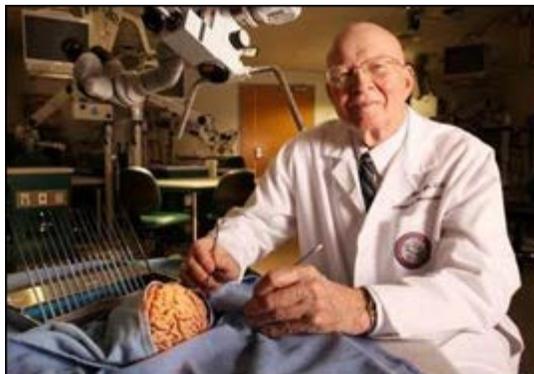
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The [NREF Rhoton Fund](#) was created to support The Rhoton Collection, neuroanatomical fellowships for medical students and new anatomical research. Dr. Rhoton and our team had ambitious plans to maximize the educational impact of his collection, which we will follow through to completion.

Prior to Dr. Rhoton's passing, he agreed to help curate a special wall calendar. Images from his collection, illustrating the 12 cranial nerves, will be featured in this special, limited-run calendar that will be available at the NREF booth, located in the AANS Resource Center at the 2016 AANS Annual Scientific



Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Rhoton was excited about the calendar, and I am happy that he knew that this small tribute to his work was going to be part of the 2016 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting.

If you would like a copy of the calendar, visit the NREF booth, tell us about your neurosurgical mentor and pick up your calendar. We had planned a limited print run, so supplies of this keepsake are limited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon H. Robertson". The signature is stylized and includes a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS
NREF Chair

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Additionally, the NREF is hosting an invitation-only reception during the meeting. Cushing Circle members, NREF board members and other honored guests will gather to toast the mission of the NREF and to pause in remembrance of both Dr. Rhoton and Dr. John Jane. Our new family foundation partners, B*CURED, and Dr. John Jane Jr. are some of the special guests who will be joining us at the reception.

The NREF booth will be part of the AANS Resource Center this year. As mentioned in Dr. Robertson's column, there will be a supply of wall calendars which feature images from the Rhoton Collection, curated by Dr. Sorenson and Dr. Rhoton himself. The NREF is very pleased to be able to offer attendees this timely memorial to Dr. Rhoton and his work.

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B*CURED was founded in 2008 by Melissa Salamé and Debbie Needle after each lost a parent to brain cancer. The organization's primary goal is to help find a cure for brain cancer through research grants. To date, B*CURED has awarded 14 grants to investigators searching for a cure for brain cancer at nationally ranked universities and hospitals and has raised over \$1,000,000 to date. All money raised goes directly to brain cancer research.

"The missions of B*CURED and the NREF are aligned with respect to funding brain cancer research, and the NREF is uniquely positioned to enhance B*CURED's research funding efforts by expanding its access to high quality research proposals," says NREF chair Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS. The NREF receives, on average, 70-80 requests for research grants on an annual basis related to brain tumors and brain cancer.

The two organizations will jointly offer a B*CURED-NREF Research Grant of \$50,000, funded by B*CURED, for adult or pediatric brain tumor research. The initial award will be made in spring 2016, and applications from junior and senior investigators are being considered. The NREF Review Committee is comprised of representatives from the joint sections, and the research grant application review process is currently underway.

To donate to neurosurgical research, visit www.nref.org/donate. For more information about B*CURED, visit www.bcured.org.

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A post-tournament reception will be held in midtown Manhattan for all participants.

All AANS members are invited to get involved. For more information regarding the tournament and post-tournament reception, please contact Ricardo J. Komotar, MD, FAANS, at rkomotar@med.miami.edu or Jeffrey N. Bruce, MD, FAANS, at jnb2@columbia.edu.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.neurocharitysoftball.org.

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The Honor Your Mentor fund was created by the NREF to recognize the late Dr. Parsa’s contributions as a physician, researcher and mentor. Brainlab has committed to donating up to \$500,000 over a period of 10 years in support of a brain tumor research fellowship or research grant. Dr. Parsa’s legacy will live on in the visions that these researchers turn into realities as they impact neurosurgery for generations to come.

“Dr. Parsa was a cherished colleague and we are proud to support the Honor

Your Mentor fund created in his name,” said Sean Clark, President of Brainlab, Inc. “Our core principles and values are reflected in the fund’s mission to provide resources to researchers that will ultimately offer neurosurgeons innovative, state-of-the-art techniques in treating and managing brain tumors.”

“The extraordinary generosity of Brainlab will greatly enhance the NREF’s ability to fund brain tumor research well into the future, helping thousands of patients facing this debilitating condition and giving hope to families and caregivers,” says NREF Chairman Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS.

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