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Contact: Cathy Powers, NREF

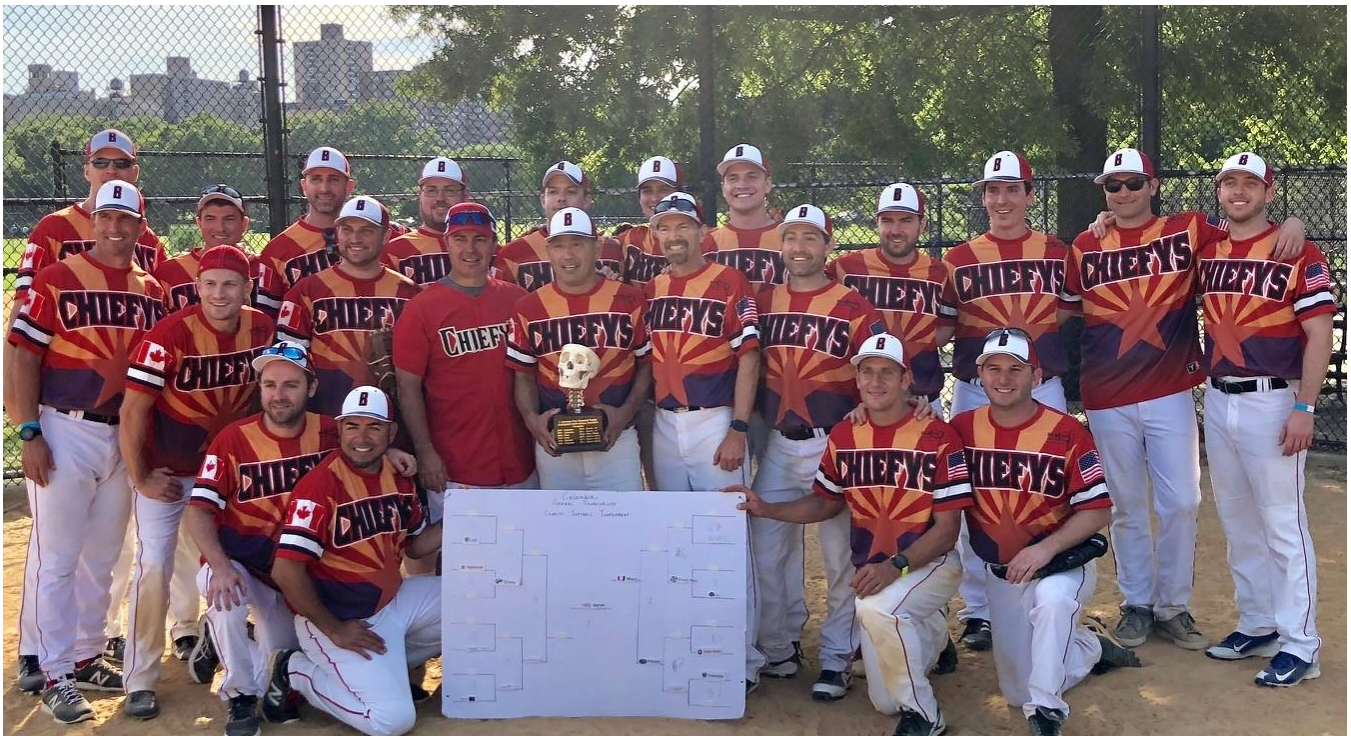
847.378.0540

cmp@aans.org

Barrow Captures 15th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament Crown

June 13, 2018 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.) – Forty teams of neurosurgeons from top medical institutions competed on June 9 in New York City’s Central Park as part of the **15th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament**. The event was hosted by Columbia University and benefited brain tumor research via the Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF), the philanthropic arm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS).

This year’s competing departments of neurosurgery included: Rutgers; Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI); Case Western; Columbia; Duke; Emory; Harvard; Johns Hopkins; UCSF; Mayo Clinic; Mount Sinai; NYU; Thomas Jefferson; Penn State; George Washington; Ohio State; Alabama; University of Buffalo; Tennessee; University of Texas - Houston; Utah; Florida; Miami; Michigan; Penn; Pittsburgh; Puerto Rico; USF; Toronto; UVA; Vanderbilt; Cornell/Memorial Sloan-Kettering; Kansas University; Wake Forest; Washington University; Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates (NSA); Colorado; Indiana; Northwestern; and Yale.



2018 Champions – Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI)

The playoff field included Miami, Rutgers, Puerto Rico, Wash U, Florida, Ohio State, Columbia, UCSF, USF, Barrow, Vanderbilt, Emory, UT Houston, Carolina NSA, Wake Forest, and Tennessee. The elite eight teams were

Miami, Puerto Rico, Florida, UCSF, Barrow, Emory, Carolina NSA, and Tennessee. The final four teams were Miami, Florida, Barrow, and Carolina NSA. Barrow claimed their sixth championship in nine years by beating Miami in the finals.

Sponsorship was strong again this year, with over \$125,000 being raised to support neuro-oncology research fellowships. "The event was a success again this year, securing much-needed support for brain tumor research," according to tournament founder and co-director Ricardo Komotar, MD, FAANS, of the University of Miami.

Planning already has begun for the 16th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to be held in June 2019.

For more information about the tournament, visit www.NeuroCharitySoftball.org or contact Dr. Komotar at rkomotar@med.miami.edu or Jeffrey Bruce, MD, FAANS, at jnb2@columbia.edu.

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About the NREF

The NREF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1980 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives.

The NREF is dedicated to providing education to neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers, as well as funding research into new and existing neurosurgical treatments, in order to identify links between best practices and improved outcomes in patient care. Through voluntary public donations, corporate support, and donations from allied groups, the NREF supports endeavors that impact the lives of those suffering from epilepsy, stroke, brain tumors, spinal disorders, sports-related head injuries, lower back pain and Parkinson's disease.

For more information about NREF, visit www.nref.org.

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