



For Immediate Release

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Vanderbilt University Wins Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament

(June 7, 2017 - Rolling Meadows, IL) - Forty teams of neurosurgeons from top medical institutions competed on June 3rd in New York City's Central Park as part of the 14th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament (www.NeuroCharitySoftball.org). The event was hosted by Columbia University and benefited brain tumor research via the Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS).

This year's competing Departments of Neurosurgery included: Albert Einstein, Barrow, Case Western Reserve, Columbia, Duke, Emory, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Louisiana State, 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, University of South Florida, Toronto, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt, Cornell/Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Kansas University, Wake Forest, Washington University, Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates, Colorado, Indiana, Northwestern, and Yale.

The playoff field included Miami, Columbia, USF, Indiana, Florida, Carolina NSA, Ohio State, UVA, Mayo, Vanderbilt, Colorado, Penn State, LSU, Emory, Pitt, and Barrow. The elite eight teams were Miami, USF, Florida, Ohio State, Vanderbilt, Penn State, Emory, and Barrow. The final four teams were USF, Ohio State, Emory, and Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt claimed their 1st championship by beating USF 20-13 in the finals.

Sponsorship was strong again this year, with over \$125,000 being raised to support neurooncology 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, of the University of Miami.

Planning already has begun for the 15th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to be held in June 2018.

For more information about the tournament, visit www.NeuroCharitySoftball.org, or contact Ricardo Komotar, MD (rkomotar@med.miami.edu) and Jeffrey Bruce (jnb2@columbia.edu).

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About the NREF

The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (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 information about the NREF, please visit www.nref.org.