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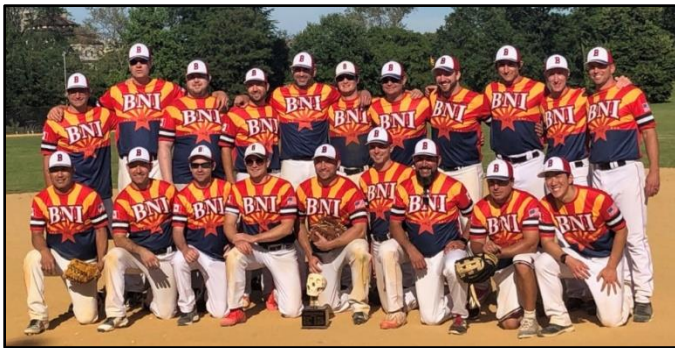
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## **BNI Captures Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament Crown**

**June 13, 2019 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.)** – Forty teams of neurosurgeons from top medical institutions competed on June 8 in New York City’s Central Park as part of the **16th 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; University of California, San Francisco (UCSF); Mayo Clinic; Mount Sinai; New York University (NYU); Thomas Jefferson; Penn State; George Washington; Ohio State; Alabama; University of Buffalo; Tennessee; University of Texas (UT) - Houston; Utah; Florida; Miami; Michigan; Penn; Pittsburgh; Puerto Rico; University of South Florida (USF); Toronto;

University of Virginia (UVA); Vanderbilt; Cornell/Memorial Sloan-Kettering; Kansas University; Wake Forest; Washington University (Wash U); Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates (CNSA); Colorado; Indiana; Northwestern; and Yale.

The playoff field included Emory, CNSA, Tennessee, Ohio State, Vanderbilt, USF, UT Houston, Barrow, UCSF, Puerto Rico, Miami, Florida, Buffalo, Indiana, Michigan, Mount Sinai. The elite eight teams were CNSA, Barrow, Vanderbilt, UT Houston, Miami, UCSF, Florida, Puerto Rico. The final four teams Barrow, Vanderbilt, UCSF, Puerto Rico. BNI claimed their seventh championship in ten years by beating UCSF in the finals.

Sponsorship was strong again this year, with over \$125,000 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 has begun for the 17th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to be held in New York City on a Saturday in early June, 2020.

For more information about the tournament, visit [www.NeuroCharitySoftball.org](http://www.NeuroCharitySoftball.org) or contact Dr. Komotar at [rkomotar@med.miami.edu](mailto:rkomotar@med.miami.edu) or Jeffrey Bruce, MD, FAANS, at [jnb2@columbia.edu](mailto: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](http://www.nref.org).

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