Dear members of the Belgian Society of Neurosurgery,
Dear friends and colleagues,

Please find below the latest information on the following topics concerning our society:
- Board and Extended Board of the BSN
- Annual Meeting BSN2018
- Helaers Research Prize for Neurosurgery
- Membership of the BSN and other societies
- Varia
  - Annual Meeting BSN2019
  - www.bsn.be
  - Neurosurgical Clinical Research Group
  - BSN Section of Neurosurgical Trainees

May I ask you to distribute this Newsletter to all your colleagues and interested co-workers who may not be member of the BSN?

Enjoy the Summer holidays!

Johan van Loon
President of the BSN
Board and Extended Board of the BSN

The **Board of the BSN** is currently constituted as follows:

- President: Johan van Loon
- Secretary: Michaël Bruneau
- Treasurer: Dirk Van Roost
- Members: Guus Koerts, Benoit Pirotte, Frank Weyns

The **Extended Board of the BSN** is constituted by the Board of the BSN, together with the Presidents of the Sections of the BSN (Spine, Paediatric, Stereotactic and Functional), the President of the professional society, and a neurosurgical member of the Board of the BANO.

In March 2018, we welcomed Bob D’Haen, newly elected President of the professional society, as member of the Extended Board. The following colleagues join the Members of the Board in the Extended Board of the BSN:

- Bart Depreitere (Spine BNSS)
- Mania De Praeter (Paediatrics)
- Dirk Van Roost (Functional and Stereotactic)
- Steven De Vleeschouwer (BANO)
- Bob D’Haen (professional society)
Annual Meeting 2018

Our Annual Meeting BSN2018 took place on March 17 2018 at the Provinciehuis in Leuven. There was a good attendance of neurosurgeons from all parts of the country and many partners from the industry. In total 88 abstracts were submitted, there were 27 oral presentations and 55 posters. For the first time a session on Ethics & Economy was organised, with separate accreditation.

Prizes

During the Annual Meeting BSN2018 on March 17 2018, the Helaers Prize for Neurosurgery 2018 was accorded to Matteo Riva (KU Leuven) for his work “Overcoming therapeutic resistance in malignant brain tumors: immune-driven combination of oncolytic virotherapy, immunotherapy and conventional therapy”.

Joost Dejaeger, laureate of the Helaers Prize for Neurosurgery 2017, gave a brief report of his achievements.

The BSN Poster Prize was won by Mélissa Di Santo (CHU Mont-Godinne) for her poster entitled “Intra-spinal iliac venous stent migration with lumbar nerve roots compression: a case report.”

The Hospithera Spine Award of the BNSS was awarded to Lisa Goudman (UZ Brussel) for her presentation “Is the self-reporting of failed back surgery syndrome patients treated with spinal cord stimulation in line with objective measurements?”

Helaers Research Prize for Neurosurgery

After the successful editions of the Helaers Research Prize for Neurosurgery in 2017 and 2018, the Fondation Suzanne Thérèse Helaers has agreed to continue its support to the BSN. The Helaers Research Prize for Neurosurgery of 5000 € has been established to promote fundamental and clinical research in Neurosurgery. The rules and regulations of the prize are available on our website (http://www.bsn.be). A call for the 2019 edition will be launched after the summer. The
deadline for submission is December 15 2018. The laureate of the 2018 prize, Matteo Riva, will present his work at the Annual Meeting of the BSN in March 2019.

The Board of the BSN wishes to thank Mme. Nicole Braekman, President of the Fondation Helaers, and Prof. Dr. Jacques Brotchi, Honorary President of the BSN, for their support.

Membership of the BSN and other societies

Membership of the BSN

All information regarding membership of the BSN can be found on the website (www.bsn.be). All membership applications have to be approved by the General Assembly of the BSN (during the Annual Meeting). Applications have to be sent to Michaël Bruneau, Secretary of the BSN (mbruneau@ulb.ac.be).

Certified neurosurgeons can become Corresponding Member of the BSN, if they are supported by three titular (full) members of the BSN, and send a curriculum with photograph for application. To become Titular Member of the BSN, a Corresponding Member has to have at least two presentations (oral or poster) at the Annual Meeting of the BSN, and send a curriculum with photograph for application.

Trainees in neurosurgery, medical specialists in other fields than neurosurgery and neuroscientists, can become Associate Member of the BSN, if they send a curriculum with photograph for application. To get more trainees involved in BSN, a BSN Section of Neurosurgical Trainees will be established (see Varia).

The Board of the BSN encourages all Belgian neurosurgeons and trainees in neurosurgery to become member of the BSN. The BSN’s objective is to promote, develop and advance education, research and care of patients with neurosurgical diseases. By representing as many neurosurgeons as possible, we are a legitimate partner for discussions with the authorities (together with the professional society), industrial partners and patient organisations.
Membership of the Professional Society for Neurosurgery

The Groupement Professionel belge de Neurochirurgie/Belgische Beroepsvereniging voor Neurochirurgie is part of GBS/VBS. The professional society is involved in all negotiations with the authorities concerning honoraria, reimbursements,... and there are also representatives in each chamber of the Commission d’Agrément/Erkenningscommissie. It protects and defends the interests of the profession in Belgium. The current Board is as follows:

- President: Bob D’Haen
- Vice-President: Tony Van Havenbergh
- Secretary: Frédéric Collignon
- Treasurer: Claude Gilliard
- Members: Erik Van de Kelft, Daniele Morelli

For more information please contact the President (Bob D’Haen <bob@neurodhaen.be>)

The Board of the BSN urges all certified neurosurgeons in Belgium to become member of the Groupement Professionel/ Beroepsvereniging. It is essential that this organisation has a strong support and a large mandate of all neurosurgeons to be able to fulfil its important tasks.

Membership of BANO

For the same reason, the Board of the BSN encourages all Belgian neurosurgeons to become member of BANO (Belgian Association for Neuro-Oncology).

BANO has been involved with the national authorities in discussions on neuro-oncology. Therefore an active role of neurosurgeons in BANO is essential to highlight the important role of neurosurgery in the treatment of neuro-oncological diseases. During the next meeting of BANO on December 14 2018, there will be elections for the Board.

For more information please contact the President of BANO, Steven De Vleeschouwer (steven.devleeschouwer@uzleuven.be).
Varia

Annual Meeting BSN2019 save the date

The next annual meeting of the BSN will take place on Saturday March 16 2019 in Leuven. Further information will follow.

Website of the BSN

The website of the BSN [www.bsn.be](http://www.bsn.be) is a tool for communication for the neurosurgical community in Belgium, with all relevant information about our activities, national and international events. Michaël Bruneau is our webmaster.

Neurosurgical Clinical Research Group

Johnny Duerinck took the initiative to organise a meeting of neurosurgeons interested in clinical research. The aim of this group is to create a platform for multicentric discussion and cooperation, to facilitate clinical trials, and to increase scientific output in the field of neurosurgery. For more information please contact Johnny ([johnny.duerinck@uzbrussel.be](mailto:johnny.duerinck@uzbrussel.be)).

BSN Section of neurosurgical trainees

A new section will be established within the BSN, specifically aimed at trainees. How this section is organized and what the activities will be, is entirely to be decided by the trainees. A meeting will be organized with all interested trainees. Those who wish to participate can send a confirmation to [isabelle.vanhoof@uzleuven.be](mailto:isabelle.vanhoof@uzleuven.be)