

New Meeting Dates are March 3-5, 2017!

The North American Skull Base Society has never been in better shape, with record attendance at its 2016 Annual Meeting, record new memberships, exciting new committee initiatives, a vibrant complement of officers and management staff, and an expansion of ties with the international community and other disciplines. It is no surprise then that the scientific and social plans for our upcoming 27th Annual Meeting reflect the great health and richness of our society, and are being realized at record pace. **It is with great institutional and personal pride and excitement that I invite you all to join us in the magical city of New Orleans, Louisiana, March 3-5, 2017 (with Pre-Meeting Cadaveric course at LSU, March 1-2).** I would like to give you a preview of what is in store.

The venue is the spectacular Roosevelt Waldorf-Astoria Hotel within walking distance to the Historic French Quarter in New Orleans. The 2 day Pre-Meeting course, co-chaired by Daniel Nuss, MD, and Carlos David, MD, will be held at the LSU Health Lab. The format this year will be anatomical region specific approaches, taught by masters of the field, both open and endoscopic. Building on the success of the 2016 Scottsdale Meeting and some of the innovative ideas brought forth by Past-President Carl Snyderman, MD, MBA, this will be followed by a 3 day meeting full of exciting and novel speakers, sessions, and events.

I chose as my theme this year ***“Mastery and Legacy in Skull Base Surgery: Lessons in Synchronicity”***. The “Mastery” component will reflect the 3 phases of Creativity (Innovation), Experience (Surgical expertise) and Scrutiny (Evidence based analysis). The “Legacy” component will celebrate the crucial gift of scientific perpetuity through the contributions of the giants of our field. Here are the highlights:

- 1- **Four Honored Guests:** Allan Crockard (UK), Bernard George (France), Roberto Heros (USA), and Fred Gentili (Canada) have graciously accepted to be my special guests. Their phenomenal collective and varied experiences and views in the fields of skull base surgery, postgraduate education, leadership roles, and adaptation to change will enrich you and thrill you. You will quickly realize why I value them as unique mentors and friends.
- 2- **A celebration of the life and work of Albert Rhoton:** The passing of our beloved Past President and educator extraordinaire will give us the opportunity to reflect on his legacy through the work of more than 120 former lab fellows, throughout the Plenary Sessions. The entire meeting is dedicated to his name and memory. For the eulogy written shortly after his death, please click [here](#).

- 3- **Women in Skull Base Surgery:** We will celebrate our rising female stars through special scientific sessions, and hope to inspire young female talent to join their ranks in a field in which they are underrepresented.
- 4- **Engaging new disciplines:** We are engaging a large contingent of Oculoplastic/Orbital surgeons, Plastic Surgeons, Neuroradiologists, and Radiation Oncologists who have accepted to be invited speakers. Each of these subspecialties is represented on this year's Scientific Program Committee. Please encourage your own colleagues in these disciplines to write to me with their interest in speaking and/or submitting abstracts.
- 5- **Engaging the International community:** We will have an unprecedented representation of prominent speakers and skull base leaders from sister overseas societies, such as the FLANC (Federation of Latin American Neurosurgeons), the ESBS (European Skull Base Society), the JSSBS (Japanese Society of Skull Base Surgery), the Mexican Societies, the Turkish Skull Base Society, and numerous individual speakers from all continents. This international presence raises the NASBS Annual Meeting to the status of skull base scientific hub for the whole world.
- 6- **Main Topic Sessions:** They will get the scientific sessions started every morning and cover the backbone topics of our specialty.
- 7- **Expert Debate Sessions:** Here we will group 8 panelists per session to discuss controversial topics. These are very interactive sessions, and we are counting on audience participation.
- 8- **Pechakucha sessions:** Following the lead from the 2016 meeting, we are bringing back these highly successful rapid fire sessions.
- 9- **Master Video sessions:** You will watch technical masters discuss their edited surgical videos.
- 10- **Constructive Criticism sessions:** Following the lead from the Coaching Sessions of the 2016 Meeting, we encourage all attendees to submit well in advance their edited surgical videos, which can be anonymous. We have chosen masters to present, narrate, and criticize these videos, in the spirit of education and technical refinement. Be on the lookout for future emails soliciting your videos!
- 11- **The Proust/Pivot/Lipton interview:** In a departure from the traditional scientific exchange, I will bring together my Honored Guests and other luminaries around a table and question them following the style of the "Actor's Studio" Interview, to help us understand their lives, personalities and contributions better, and help inspire the young audience through their wisdom. I promise you an entertaining time that you won't want to miss!
- 12- **Oral Abstracts and Posters:** Our call for abstracts will open in September, and we encourage all your submissions.
- 13- **Awards for Best Basic Science paper, Best Clinical paper, Best Poster, Best International paper, and others.**
- 14- **Dinner Symposia:** For the first time, we will offer our Industry partners the opportunity to host dinner symposia on topics of interest on the Thursday and Friday evenings. The topics will be announced in due time.

Please be on the lookout for individual mailings in the months to come. We look forward to your participation in our annual meeting as faculty, presenting an abstract, poster or as an attendee networking and socializing with your colleagues.

I would like to thank the entire Scientific Program Committee, listed below, for their ongoing tireless efforts in building what I know will become one of the most successful NASBS Meeting ever. Help us make it so by writing with suggestions, submitting your best scientific work, and encouraging your colleagues and trainees to attend.

Mustafa Baskaya, MD (Meeting Co-Chair)
Zoukaa Sargi, MD, MPH (Meeting Co-Chair)
Carlos David, MD (Pre-Meeting Course Co-Chair)
Daniel Nuss, MD (Pre-Meeting Course Co-Chair)
Rony Aouad, MD
George Wanna, MD
Ian Dunn, MD
Paul Gardner, MD
Jeffrey Sorenson, MD
Samy Youssef, MD, PhD
Nagy Elsayyad, MD
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