



NORTH AMERICAN SKULL BASE SOCIETY

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I am very excited, humbled and delighted to take over as the President of the North American Skull Base Society. This is the most stimulating, innovative and growing Society that I have ever been involved with. It is an interdisciplinary mix of neurosurgeons, otolaryngologist-head & neck surgeons, head and neck surgeons, plastic surgeons, ophthalmologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, radiologists and others. The society grew by an incredible 117 members this past year under the leadership of Dr. Madison Michael and the Membership and Credentials Committee.

The 27th Annual Meeting in New Orleans from March 3–5, 2017 was an absolute success under the leadership of President Jacques Morcos and his Program Chairs Drs. Mustafa Baskaya and Zoukaa Sargi. We hit a record attendance of 632 at his meeting and there was a dynamic and fun filled series of social events in *The Big Easy*. The pre-meeting course on March 1–2, 2017 at LSU Health Sciences Center under the leadership of Drs. Daniel Nuss and Carlos David was a sold out extravaganza of open and endoscopic skull base surgery with a stellar faculty.

The program committee did an absolutely excellent job in organizing an interesting series of panels, debates, PechaKucha sessions, master video and constructive criticism video sessions and proffered paper sessions. The Dr. Albert L. Rhoton Memorial was a brilliant tribute to this master surgeon, researcher and educator delivered by many of his former fellows. His legacy of excellence will live on through this society and the Rhoton Collection.

The Honored Guest Lecturers (Professors Roberto C. Heros, Alan Crockard and Fred Gentili) all gave highly relevant, insightful and inspiring lectures highlighting many of their journeys through skull base surgery. The Keynote Lecturer, Lt. General Russel L. Honoré, USA (Ret.) gave a superb lecture on his success in leading missions under extreme circumstances and “Don’t get stuck on stupid” concept.

We are already in full planning mode for the meeting next year in **Coronado at the Loews Coronado near San Diego. Please save the date for the Pre-Meeting Course on February 14-15, 2018 and the main meeting from February 16-18, 2018.** This is a family friendly resort and we hope many people will come to enjoy the meeting and bring their families to enjoy the breathtaking and beautiful location. We are committed to bringing you the best possible meeting that will exceed your expectations.

The Summer Course at LSU is filling quickly so I would encourage residents and fellows to sign up soon so they don’t miss out on this fantastic learning opportunity. We will again be looking for help with our *International Travel Scholarships* which has been a tremendous success owing to the generosity of individuals and so many fellowship program directors. Please don’t forget to

send your papers to our journal (*The Journal of Neurological Surgery Part B, Skull Base*) for consideration of publication. The co-editors, Drs. Dennis Kraus and Michael Link are doing a terrific job in running this journal and they are always in need of skilled and talented reviewers, so please let them know if you can help with this very important peer-review process.

Above all, let me know your ideas and thoughts on how we can make this society even stronger. The NASBS is truly an incredible organization that brings together so many clinicians interested in management of patients with skull base disease. I am indebted to the army of volunteers who serve on our committees and participate in the great courses that the NASBS puts on each year. I am very proud to be President of this amazing and dynamic organization.

I look forward to meeting you in Coronado next February 2018, please go ahead and mark your calendars now!

Ian J. Witterick MD
President, North American Skull Base Society