



# NSA

Neurosurgical Society  
of Alabama

## News & Notes

Advancing interest in neurological surgery and allied subjects

WWW.NSANEUROSURGEONS.COM

## Registration is open for NSA's Annual Conference

NSA President Donald Tyler, MD, and NSA staff are busy planning this year's conference. We will have a total instruction time of six hours. See page 2 for a tentative agenda.

As usual, we will begin with a family-friendly welcome reception on Friday evening, July 8. We'll also gather on Saturday evening for a family dinner party. More details will be available soon at [www.nsaneurosurgeons.com](http://www.nsaneurosurgeons.com).

Support from industry partners is important to NSA. Please share our [exhibitor prospectus](#) with vendors that come to your office.

Rooms at the Hilton Sandestin begin at \$305 per night. Make your hotel reservations by calling (850) 267-9500 and reference room block code NEU. NOTE: The NSA room block closes June 8, but we expect rooms to sell out early. **Reserve your room today!**

It's time to renew  
your 2016  
membership dues  
[nsaneurosurgeons.com](http://nsaneurosurgeons.com).

## 2016 CONFERENCE TENTATIVE AGENDA

### FRIDAY, JULY 8

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception on the Pool Deck

### SATURDAY, JULY 9

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.

Welcome

8:20 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Honored Guest Talk:

Jerry Oakes, MD

Chief of Neurosurgery

Children's of Alabama

9:20 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

John Amburgy, MD

Resident Physician

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Alabama - Birmingham

9:50 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Paul Foreman, MD

University of Alabama - Birmingham

10:50 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Chad Washington, MS, MPH, MD

Assistant Professor

University of Mississippi

11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Tres McClugage, MD

University of Alabama - Birmingham

11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Business Session

7:00 p.m.

Dinner Party on the Pool Deck

### SUNDAY, July 10

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Honored Guest Talk

Jerry Oakes, MD

Chief of Neurosurgery

Children's of Alabama

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Seizure Outcomes after Stereotactic

Radiosurgery for the Treatment of

Cerebral Arteriovenous Malformations

Nidal Bassam Omar, MD

Resident Physician,

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Alabama - Birmingham

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Jeffrey Blount, MD

Professor

University of Alabama - Birmingham

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Joshua Menendez, MD

Resident Physician

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Alabama - Birmingham

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

John Deveikis, MD

Professor

University of Alabama - Birmingham

# Primary medical specialties co-leading development of spine patient registry

## *American Association of Neurological Surgeons*

Chicago, IL – For the first time, two primary medical specialties are joining forces to create a clinical data registry. Together, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) are creating a Spine Patient Registry, which will support the collection and submission of quality data specific to spine patients and track these patients' outcomes over time.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, back pain is one of the most common health complaints, affecting more than one in four adults every year, and a popular reason for physician visits. The specialties of physical medicine and rehabilitation and neurosurgery serve a large portion of spine patients in the United States. The registry will follow both surgical and nonsurgical patients longitudinally, and collectively, the data has the ability to advance the understanding of this ever-growing patient population while demonstrating the quality and value of treatments.

"PM&R physicians practicing spine medicine currently represent the largest segment of our specialty and Academy membership," commented Gregory M. Worsowicz, MD, MBA, president of AAPM&R. "Their work is critical for improving the health of the spine patient population as well as for the future of our specialty. Through this registry and data we seek to demonstrate the clinical expertise and impact PM&R physicians have on the lives of these patients. This unique collaboration with AANS also showcases a key to the physiatric approach to medicine: team-based care."

"We are exceedingly excited about the potential of this joint registry. Physiatrists and neurosurgeons are natural partners in caring for patients suffering spine disorders throughout the continuum of care. Through this registry and for the first time we will have a meaningful database with patient

reported outcomes that will allow us to understand which patients respond to medications, which ones respond to physical therapy, which ones respond to percutaneous treatments, and, finally, which ones are best served by surgery. While we normally try all conservative options up-front, we may be able to predict which patients are destined to fail those interventions and we can go directly to some form of percutaneous or open surgical procedure to hopefully eliminate suffering quicker. As the database matures we will be able to communicate very directly with the patient and say 'we can predict that this treatment for you has an 85 percent chance of improving quality of life.' This knowledge will be empowering to physicians as well as patients. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with our colleagues from the AAPM&R," added AANS President, H. Hunt Batjer, MD, FAANS.

The objectives for the Spine Patient Registry also closely align to health care's shift towards value-based payments. Payment adjustments are scheduled to be implemented in 2019 tied to a 2017 performance period. AAPM&R and the AANS are diligently preparing the registry for utilization for the 2017 reporting period.

To learn more, visit [www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org).

## BCBS to require precertification on some physician-administered medications

Beginning April 1, 2016, a precertification will be required for some medications administered by a physician in an office setting as part of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama's Physician-Administered Drug Review Program.

If a physician requests a precertification for a medication and it's denied, it can be appealed. However, if a medication is denied without a precertification, it cannot be appealed. So far, no grace period has been announced.

Physicians should start the precertification process early by submitting a courtesy predetermination to request for approval before the April 1 deadline.

1. Go to [www.AlabamaBlue.com/providers](http://www.AlabamaBlue.com/providers) and log in to ProviderAccess to initiate a request. Member eligibility will automatically populate with this option.
2. Fax the request form found in "Physician-Administered Drug Policies and Forms" under Pharmacy Resources.

Questions? Contact your Provider Networks consultant at (866) 904-4130.

[Click to download the Physician-Administered Precertification Drug List](#)

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*The neurosurgical society of Alabama is organized is to advance the interest in neurological surgery and allied subjects and to act as a representative for its members at the discretion of the membership.*

*The articles contained in NSA News & Notes are meant to provoke thought and comment and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the members, Executive Council or staff of the Neurosurgical Society of Alabama. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome Send to [cmorris@alamedical.org](mailto:cmorris@alamedical.org).*