Dear NASBS Members and Colleagues,

Our Scientific Program Committee, led by Drs. Zoukaa Sargi and Amir Dehdashti, has been working very hard to make our 2018 Annual Meeting at the Loews Coronado Bay Hotel in San Diego a huge success.

We will have three pre-meeting conferences:

1. The traditional hands-on course will be held on February 14-15, 2018 at the UCSD Center for the Future of Surgery co-led by Drs. James Evans and Ricardo Carrau. The first day will target the anterior cranial base, suprasellar region, cavernous sinus and Meckel’s cave. The second day will target the petrous apex, clivus and craniovertebral junction. There will be focused lectures, case presentations, prosections and plenty of hands-on dissection by participants.

2. On Thursday February 15, 2018, in conjunction with the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), a Meningioma Education Day has been created by Drs. Gelareh Zadeh and Ian Dunn. Meningioma Education Day will highlight surgical lessons in skull base meningiomas, pathology and molecular advances, integration of imaging technology to advance surgical resection and new frontiers and opportunities for treatment of meningiomas. On the first day of the main NASBS annual meeting (Friday February 16, 2018), we will also have one main topic session, an expert debate and proffered paper sessions dedicated to skull base meningiomas to continue this theme for interested attendees.

3. On the afternoon of Thursday February 15, 2018 from 1pm to 5pm, we have also organized a Skull Base Primer Course for medical students, residents, fellows, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and anyone interested in an update on the basics of skull base disease. The primer course is co-led by Drs. Eric Monteiro and Scott Wait and will cover anatomy, imaging, pathology, treatment strategies, open and endoscopic approaches, principles of radiation, chemotherapy and immunotherapy, complications and outcomes.

The theme of the main meeting (February 16-18, 2018) will focus on education and mentoring the next generation. In addition to main topics, expert debates, hot topics and video sessions, each day will have a specific track called The Rhoton Room covering specific anatomical areas. The Rhoton Room sessions will start with a 3D Anatomy
presentation followed by pertinent diagnostic imaging followed by two teams of surgeons showing their preferred techniques to perform the surgery ("Dueling Dissections") on cadaveric specimens. The moderators will keep the sessions lively and we think will be a very educational experience for novices to experts.

Also during the main meeting we plan on having two surgical skills simulation models for all to practice endoscopically stopping carotid artery bleeding in the sphenoid sinus. These stations will be in our Exhibit Pavilion and will be available by appointment only. Reserve your spot on either Friday, February 16th or Saturday, February 17th via online registration.

On the last day of the meeting (Sunday February 18, 2018), in addition to the scientific sessions and proffered paper presentations, we have organized a Pituitary Forum, a joint effort of the NASBS and the International Society of Pituitary Surgeons. Topics will include an update on functional adenomas, avoiding complications, optimizing outcomes and related proffered paper sessions.

We have an amazing meeting waiting for you in Coronado!

I look forward to seeing you in February 2018.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ian Witterick MD

President, NASBS