

## RFS Committee Update: From the Bench to the Bedside and preparing for the Next Step in Fellowship Training

Nick El-Baridi, MD, PT, Michael Fishman MD, MBA, Samuel Grodofsky, MD, Jason Pope, MD. Steven Falowski, MD

The training cycle for most residency and fellowship programs takes another turn this summer, marking the progression in the careers of many members of the North American Neuromodulation Society's Resident & Fellows Section (RFS). Outgoing residents starting their fellowship program and graduating fellows facing the "real-world" of medicine walk the balance of excitement and uncertainty. This critical juncture, on opposite ends of the fellowship spectrum, underscores the incredible value of the RFS, whose mission to provide professional development resources and a sense of community, helped ensure a soft landing.

One of the major highlights for the RFS in 2016 includes the hosting of a cadaver and lecture course for trainees in Baltimore at the NANS:NIC2. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Co-Chaired by Drs. Steve Falowski MD and Jason Pope, MD, they organized a full day lecture series and cadaver lab for residents and fellows during the inaugural NANS-NIC meeting. The faculty included a diverse array of clinicians from neurosurgery to anesthesiology, across a variety of different practice models. They covered topics that detailed evidence-based data and expert opinion supporting neuromodulation and intrathecal drug delivery as well as priceless insight into practice management and contracts. The cadaver lab was proctored by well-published faculty, who instructed participants in a variety of neuromodulation approaches, from conventional stimulation to targeted drug delivery and also dorsal root ganglion (DRG) stimulation.

RFS member Ajay Anthony, MD, who was one of the 22 trainees who attended the course stated: "The lectures were interesting and covered many topics that I did not learn in my training... It was fun spending the day with so many experts from all over the country." A highlight of all NANS educational offerings is the low faculty to participant ratio.

The RFS also continues to supplement member training by the continuation of the mentorship program. Trainees involved continue to provide excellent reviews of their partnership with high profile experts in the field as they hold phone conversations and site visits to discuss best practices in neuromodulation and other practical discussion points such as billing, marketing and contract negotiations. To illustrate the success of the program, Bradley Stovall, MD with his mentor Corey Hunter, MD used the pairing to complete a publication together. Much of the positive feedback has focused on the personalized discussion format and the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable and experienced physicians.

RFS activities also include the upkeep of a landmark publications database and an educational resource website.

The RFS is committed to enhancing neuromodulation education and provides a network of support for members during the early impressionable stages of their careers. Future endeavors for the RFS include

preparation for the 2017 NANS meeting in Las Vegas which will include the popular cadaver course and lecture series as well as the organization of a job fair. Please stay tuned for more activities organized by the RFS. There will be opportunities for established providers interested in mentorship and trainee members to enrich their neuromodulation education during their residency and fellowship.

---