



FIENS

ROBERT DEMPSEY, MD, FACS, FAANS

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear Jeanne,

2022 marks a remarkable time of growth, rebuilding and reassociation with old friends of Foundation for International Education in Neurosurgery (FIENS), just as it has for all of us who have been so affected by the worldwide pandemic. FIENS has tried to use this time productively with the tremendous influence of online learning and lessons learned from collaborations with wonderful people worldwide.

In this newsletter, you will hear that we will be restarting our in-person boot camps this fall with the first being in Vietnam and then hope to continue our programs in Africa and the Americas. Our fellowship programs are very successful. The Bassett Program helps neurosurgeons trained in low-and-middle-income countries to refine their skills with a three-month period of training and development at centers throughout the world. They have been working virtually and now will be returning to in-person training. Our Clack fellows who receive funding to allow them to train at regional sites on their own continent are continuing along as they work to develop what is often the first neurosurgical program in their area of need.

A very major change for FIENS has been our management cooperation with the team from Ohana One. The addition to our staff of Jeanne Bray, Maggie Bohlman and Marchelle Sellers has been invaluable in bringing out our new website, newsletters, electronic communication and data management. Their enthusiasm and knowledge, as well as support of our important charitable work has been invaluable in realizing what is possible.

We also welcome [Dr. Joqi Pattisapu](#) as our new Volunteer Coordinator. His efforts are much appreciated as we continue to work to place volunteers in areas where they can provide the most impact for the most people as we develop our programs of service through education to update and maintain neurosurgery programs in areas of need.

This is a most exciting time for FIENS and we are thrilled to have your interest and support. We all look forward to working with all of you. I thank you for all of your efforts which have such tremendous benefits for so many. Wishing you the best.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dempsey, MD

Chairman and Manucher J. Javid Professor of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Wisconsin SMPH
Chairman, Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery



FIENS

Represented at the G4 Alliance Meeting and The Society of Neurological Surgeons' Annual Meeting

Recently FIENS has been represented by members at two prestigious events. In May, Dr. Dempsey was invited to speak at The Society of Neurological Surgeons' Annual Meeting in Detroit Michigan. His presentation was titled FIENS Unified by Education. Areas of discussion included the challenges of health and social justice today, FIENS approach to bidirectional learning, FIENS initiatives, partnerships and fellowships, an analysis of the neurosurgical gap in LMICs, and lessons learned. See the full meeting program [here](#).

Also in May, Dr. Ghotme represented FIENS at the G4 Alliance meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. He noted "It was an incredible experience to listen and converse with such a passionate and driven group of leaders from 72 organizations! Overall the G4 Alliance and its leadership was very welcoming and genuinely supportive of FIENS and the GAPSBI-F initiative to promote fortification of food with folic acid globally as it aligns with G4 SOTA goals. We were given an opportunity to tell the organization about our group, our initiative, and how everyone can be part of it."



FIENS

Dr. Hervé Lekuya

Bassett Fellow



"Honestly speaking, this has been the greatest experience of the improvement of my neurosurgical skills that is critical for neurosurgical practice in my home country (Uganda).

This FIENS-Bassett fellowship has refined and sharpened my neurosurgical knowledge, skills, eyes, steadiness, and hands-on experience. Basically, I had the opportunity to discover the complex and detailed anatomical relationships of the skull base structures mainly, as well as the finest details of skull base surgical techniques and corridors. I strongly believe that this is the best training opportunity that I have had in my Neurosurgical education." [Read the full article here.](#)

Check out
the new FIENS
Website!



FIENS Treasurer, Brandon Rocque led a year-long project that resulted in the brand new FIENS website that is live today. He collaborated with website designer and current site host, Ryan Atwood at Expert Creative to develop the new look, layout and vision for the site. Brandon is particularly enthusiastic about the map feature that exists on the main page. Congratulations on a job well done, Brandon. And thank you to Ryan, all the interns, board members and FIENS community for contributing time and energy to make this happen. We hope you will take a moment and check out our [new site](#).

FIENS Boot Camp

Established by the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) in 2010, International Bootcamps facilitate the transition from medical school to mid-level residency for surgical students. Bootcamps spring from a humanitarian model which provides a cost-effective and sustainable solution to educational needs; the program demonstrates to local neurosurgeons how they can take ownership of their educational processes.

The bootcamps provide an opportunity for residents to meet other residents outside of their own programs and also provide exposure to up-to-date techniques and equipment. SNS provides access to their website for educational materials, mini courses with lectures, case discussions, skill stations, simulators and models to facilitate the transition from medical school to mid-level residency. Past FIENS International Bootcamps have been in Bolivia 2015 & 2018, South Africa 2016, Yangon 2017 & 2018, Zimbabwe 2017, Nigeria 2018, Singapore 2019, Chile 2019, and Kenya 2019.

In partnership with the Vietnamese Neurosurgical Society, School of Medicine and Pharmacy The University of Da Nang, Henry Ford Health System, FIENS led by Dr. Jack Rock (FIENS Board member) will be participating in another International Bootcamp this December in Da Nang, Vietnam. We will share more updates as we get closer to December.



Meet the Current Clack & Bassett Fellows

All of us at FIENS extend the warmest of Welcome of our newest Fellows.

Read about the new cohort of Bassett fellows and the latest Clack Fellows [here](#).



Dr. Dempsey receives the 2022 World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Medal of Honor

Dr. Dempsey receives the highest honor given in world neurosurgery. Read article [here](#).



Global Surgical Volunteer Updates

Read a letter from our volunteer chair [here](#). If you haven't, please update your [Global Surgical Volunteer Program information here](#).

To learn more about becoming a FIENS volunteer click [here](#)

VOLUNTEER WITH FIENS



This work is only possible with your support, please donate today!



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