



I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We have a lot of announcements to share since our last newsletter in September 2023.

- Congratulations to the second round of FIENS Bassett Fellows for 2023, Dr. Seare Halefom Kahsay, Dr. Heba Medhat Maghraby, Dr. Yunus Kuntawi Aji, and Dr. Samaila Timothy.
- Our Clack Family Fellowship cycle just ended at the beginning of this month and we look forward to making our announcement of those awardees in March.
- Did you know there are other opportunities for named fellowships? They offer a unique way for our supporters to maintain a long-term connection with FIENS and direct their giving toward causes they deeply believe in.
- The board member spotlight is shining on Roberta Glick who has been a member of FIENS for almost a decade. Roberta has played a pivotal role in several training boot camps. I invite you to read her personal reflection below which illuminates her commitment to increasing access to global neurosurgical training in low-middle-income-countries (LMICs).
- In November FIENS held a Virtual Visiting Professor Webinar on Current and Future Trends in Neurotrauma Management in the Global Context, presented by Dr. Andreas Rubiano and moderated by FIENS Clack Family Fellowship alumni, Dr. Simon Mukuye. The presentation and recording are available below.
- You will find an exciting recap on the most recent training bootcamp in Hanoi, Vietnam, organized and attended by FIENS board members, FIENS Board members, Jack Rock, Brandon Rocque, Roberta Glick and many other volunteer neurosurgeons.
- We are thrilled to share a recap from recent Bassett Fellow, Joel Fernando Sanabria Duarte of Paraguay who had the opportunity to travel to the University of Toronto and fulfill a deep desire to study under the direction of Dr. Suneil Kalia, an expert in the field of functional neurosurgery.
- Congratulations to Dr. Wohn's on his recent work in Nepal.
- Please see an update on the Madison Microscope Initiative led by Abdullah Keles.
- Last but not least, please see an update from the FIENS Global Surgical Volunteer program led by Volunteer Coordinator, Jogi Pattisapu and Hamid Shah.

Thank you for your invaluable support in advancing the global neurosurgical community. Your contribution is instrumental in enabling improvements in patient care globally.

Warm regards,

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



Congratulations to the second round of FIENS Bassett Fellows for 2023. The four new fellows are Dr. Seare Halefom Kahsay, Dr. Heba Medhat Maghraby, Dr. Yunus Kuntawi Aji, and Dr. Samaila Timothy. As the second round of 2023 Bassett Fellowship awardees, they will receive funds to cover traveling and living expenses for a three-month period to be spent observing the activities of a neurosurgical service that has an established relationship with FIENS. It is the intention of FIENS that these scholars will one day act as future sites of service for FIENS. To read more about these fellows, please click [here](#).



The most recent Clack Family Fellowship cycle will close this month. Be on the lookout for our announcement of the awarded scholars in the coming months. To learn more about this competitive award and how to apply, please click [here](#).



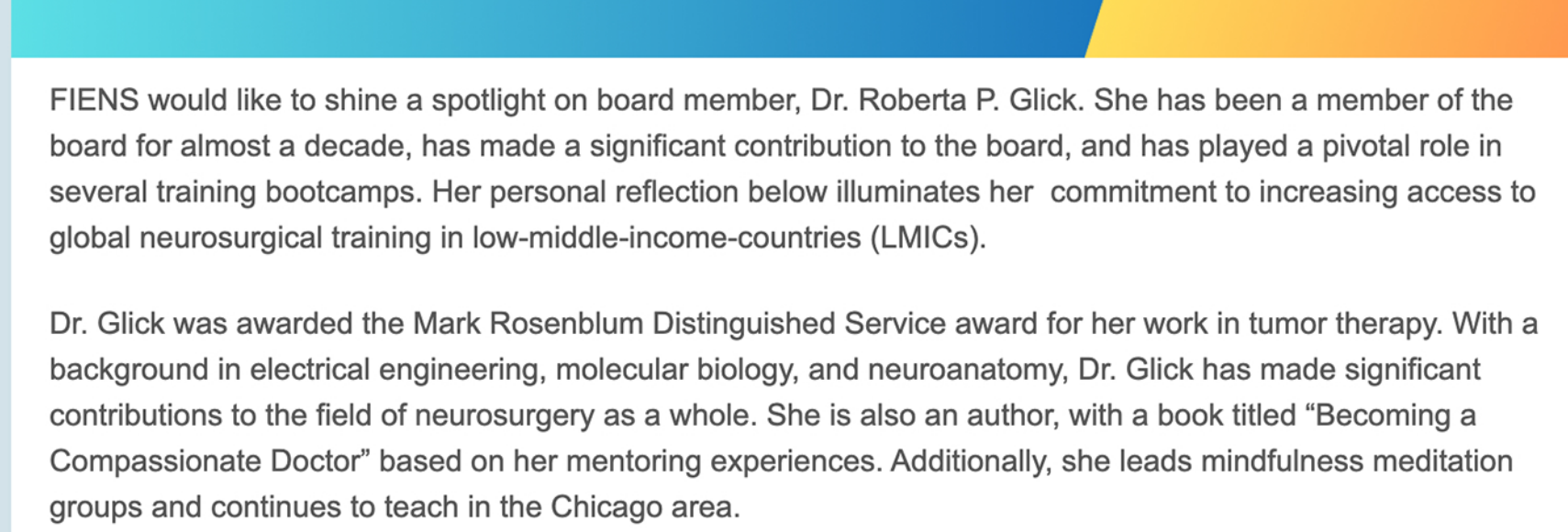
Named fellowships are a way for supporters of FIENS to maintain a long term connection to the organization and direct their giving toward efforts that they believe in.

Currently, FIENS has two named fellowships, The Clack Family Fellowship and the Bassett Fellowship.

[Learn more about FIENS' Fellowships](#) →

If you are interested in creating a named fellowship with FIENS, please send an inquiry to info@fiens.org. Named fellowships can be established by individuals, families, groups, or organizations.

Areas of interest for named fellowships include: General Neurosurgery, Trauma, Skull base, Spine, Pediatrics, Tumor, Spine and Nerve.



FIENS would like to shine a spotlight on board member, Dr. Roberta P. Glick. She has been a member of the board for almost a decade, has made a significant contribution to the board, and has played a pivotal role in several training bootcamps. Her personal reflection below illuminates her commitment to increasing access to global neurosurgical training in low-middle-income-countries (LMICs).

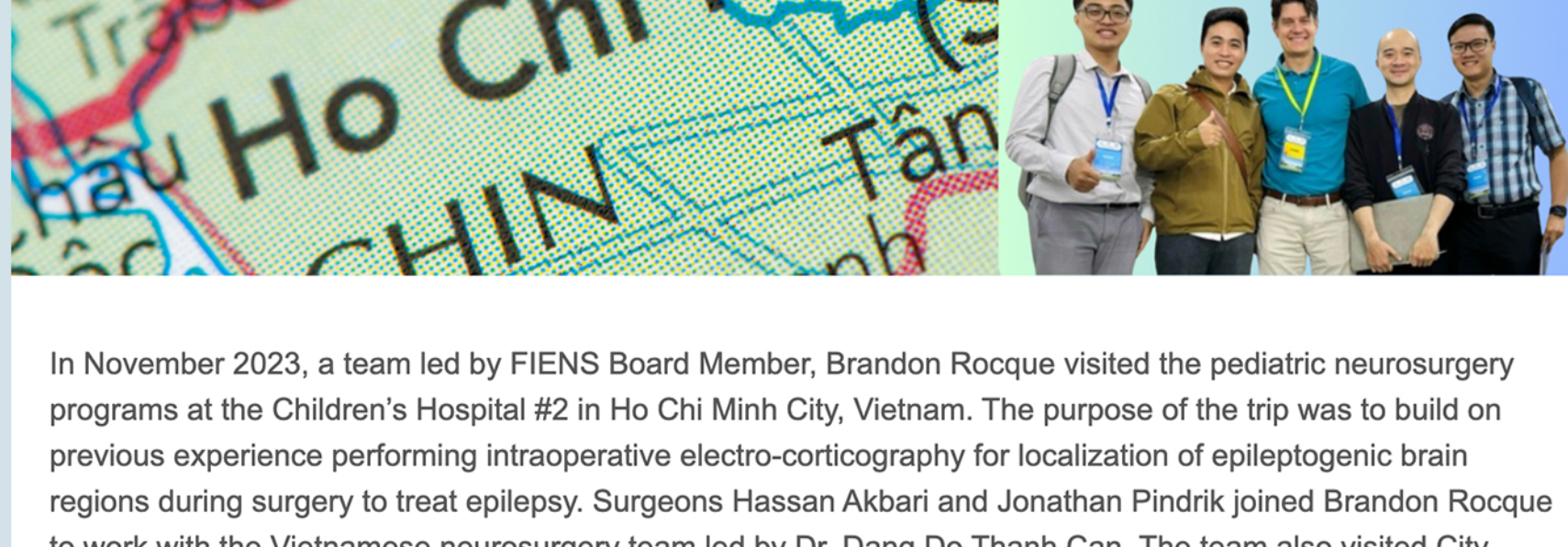
Dr. Glick was awarded the Mark Rosenblum Distinguished Service award for her work in tumor therapy. With a background in electrical engineering, molecular biology, and neuroanatomy, Dr. Glick has made significant contributions to the field of neurosurgery as a whole. She is also an author, with a book titled "Becoming a Compassionate Doctor" based on her mentoring experiences. Additionally, she leads mindfulness meditation groups and continues to teach in the Chicago area.

Read Dr. Glick's personal reflection [here](#).



In November, FIENS hosted another Global Virtual Visiting Professor Webinar. The topic was Current and Future Trends of Neurotrauma Management in a Global Context and was presented by Dr. Andrés M. Rubiano. The webinar was hosted by Clack Family Scholarship alumni, Dr. Simon Mukuye. The interactive discussion after the presentation and large amount of questions for Dr. Rubiano demonstrated the importance and relevance of the presentation topic.

To view the presentation deck or the recorded webinar, click [here](#).



In November 2023, a team led by FIENS Board Member, Brandon Rocque visited the pediatric neurosurgery programs at the Children's Hospital #2 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The purpose of the trip was to build on previous experience performing intraoperative electrocorticography for localization of epileptogenic brain regions during surgery to treat epilepsy. Surgeons Hassan Akbari and Jonathan Pindrik joined Brandon Rocque to work with the Vietnamese neurosurgery team led by Dr. Dang Do Thanh Can. The team also visited City Children's Hospital and the team of Dr. Nguyen Khai.

The second week of the trip Dr. Rocque and the team of Dr. Pong Kankirawatana and Trei King made their first post-pandemic visit to long-established partner sites in Hanoi. Joined by neurosurgeon Casey Madura and neurologist Steve Deroos, the team performed epilepsy surgery at the National Children's Hospital, including the first ever implantation of subdural electrodes in Vietnam. The team also visited the National Cancer Hospital where an established program for treatment of cerebral palsy with selective dorsal rhizotomy has been developed. The group evaluated patients, assisted with a surgery, and participated in a symposium on selective dorsal rhizotomy attended by over 50 physicians from around Vietnam.

To read more about this bootcamp and see photos of the trip, click [here](#).



Dr. Sanabria Duarte with fellowship host, Dr. Suneil Kalia at Toronto Western Hospital

FIENS is proud to share the news that FIENS Bassett Fellow awardee, Dr. Joel Fernando Sanabria Duarte completed his fellowship in June 2023. Dr. Sanabria Duarte is a functional neurosurgery fellow from Paraguay who aspired for many years to have the opportunity to visit and observe Dr. Suneil Kalia. His admiration for Dr. Kalia stemmed from his world renowned service specialty in Parkinson's Disease. To read more about the inspiring report from Dr. Sanabria Duarte, please click [here](#).



In September of 2023, Dr. Wohns was awarded the honor, "The International Neurosurgeon That Contributed Most to Academic Neurosurgery in Nepal" at the 8th Annual Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons (NESON) in Kathmandu, Nepal. NESON is the official society of neurosurgeons of Nepal. The meeting was held in conjunction with SANC 2023, the South Asian Neurosurgical Congress. The neurosurgical participants consisted of young as well as eminent neurosurgeons from all over Nepal plus neurosurgeons from other parts of South Asia and around the world.



Since our last report in September, we wanted to share an update on the continued work of Dr. Abdullah Keles and the Madison Microscope Initiative. Recently, Dr. Alpha Ba visited the Baskaya Lab at the University of Wisconsin Madison's School of Medicine and Neurology. During his visit, Dr. Kalia stemmed from his world renowned service specialty in Parkinson's Disease. To read more about the inspiring report from Dr. Sanabria Duarte, please click [here](#).



FIENS Global Surgical Volunteer Coordinator, Jogi Pattisapu and Hamid Shah have been working diligently to build a list of neurosurgical volunteer opportunities for 2024. FIENS has an outstanding group of volunteers that have applied to the program to offer their time and service to build neurosurgical capacity in developing countries. Please reach out to the [volunteer program](#) directly if you have any questions or have any neurosurgical opportunities you'd like FIENS to share with the volunteer team.

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

VOLUNTEER WITH FIENS



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