

We invite you to read the FIENS winter newsletter to stay up to date on our recent activities, upcoming events, and the impact we are making together. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for helping us advance neurosurgical care worldwide.

- Welcome, Tanya Singh, FIENS Communications Intern.
- Congratulations to the second round of 2024 FIENS Bassett Fellows, Ahmad Reshad Payenda, Ruzan Nazinyan and Tokhir Akhmediev.
- Congratulations to the second round of Clack Fellows of 2024, Cèlèbre Mualaba and Jallarah Nassozi.
- FIENS Board Member Sarah Woodrow is supporting an Ethiopian Spine Bootcamp in May 2025.
- Save the Date for the upcoming FIENS Virtual Visiting Professor presented by Sarah Woodrow on Spine and Spinal Cord Tumors: Clinical and Surgical Perspectives.
- We are thrilled to share fellowship recaps from Bassett Fellows, Seare Halefom Kahsay and Huy Minh Tran.
- Please see a recap of a FIENS supported training program that occurred in Bolivia last fall.
- We are excited to announce a new page on the FIENS website dedicated to the FIENS Bassett Family and Clack Family Scholarship Alumni.
- Please learn more about the Boston Declaration below.
- 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,



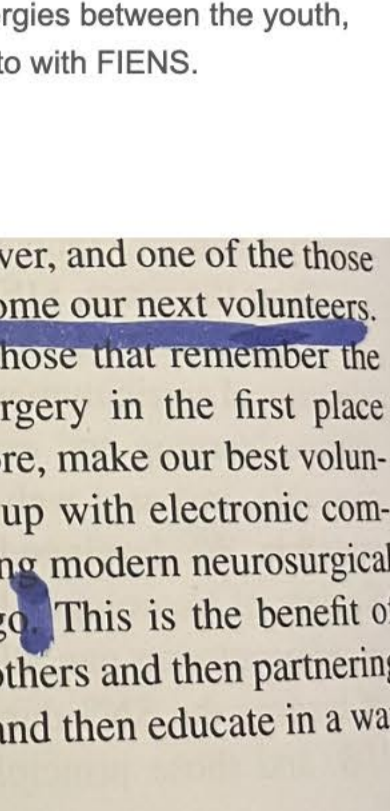
Robert J. Dempsey, MD

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



SUPPORT FIENS TODAY

FIENS



Welcome Tanya Singh, FIENS Communications Intern

Hi everyone! My name is Tanya and I am super excited to be helping out with FIENS. I am a medical student from the UK and am really keen on supporting efforts relating to global neurosurgery. I am particularly interested in the crossovers between medical anthropology and transnationalism with neurosurgery. I first found out about FIENS after reading Dr Robert J. Dempsey's amazing new book and field reflection, which eloquently presents the history and visions of FIENS within the wider context of global health.

Please see one of my favorite excerpts from the book below.

I have past experience working on social media/ graphics for health with the UN and for surgical initiatives. I think that the below excerpt from Dr Dempsey's book really highlights the synergies between the youth, digitalisation and neurosurgical partnerships - all of which I hope to contribute to with FIENS.

Thank you for the opportunity!

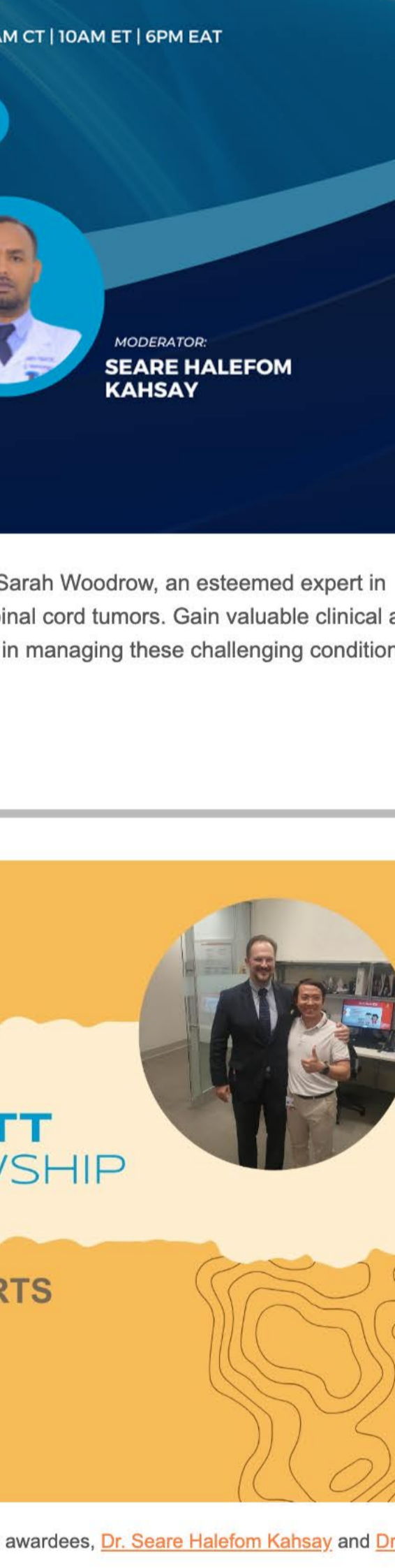
...so much still needs to be done. The benefits are many, however, and one of those is that as we train excellent young neurosurgeons, they become our next volunteers. Neurosurgeons are philanthropic all over the world, and those that remember the excitement and passion that brought them into neurosurgery in the first place remember that they succeeded by partnering. They, therefore, make our best volunteers for future programs. This is a generation that grew up with electronic communication and education offerings that are rapidly bringing modern neurosurgical care to areas where it was unimaginable even a decade ago. This is the benefit of working very hard at something you do well with and for others and then partnering to make it happen. You first listen to the needs in an area and then educate in a way to elevate those around you.



Congratulations to the second round of Bassett Fellows in 2024. The awardees are **Ahmad Reshad Payenda, Ruzan Nazinyan and Tokhir Akhmediev.**

As 2024 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.

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Congratulations to the second round of FIENS Clack Family Scholars of 2024. The awardees are Cèlèbre Mualaba and Jallarah Nassozi. As the 2024 Clack Family Fellowship awardees, they will receive funds to continue their neurosurgical education in their home countries.

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To read more about these fellows, please click [here](#).

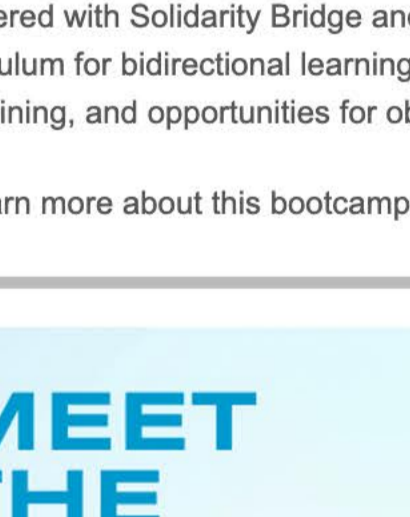


VIRTUAL VISITING PROFESSOR WEBINAR
Spinal and Spinal Cord Tumors: Clinical and Surgical Perspectives

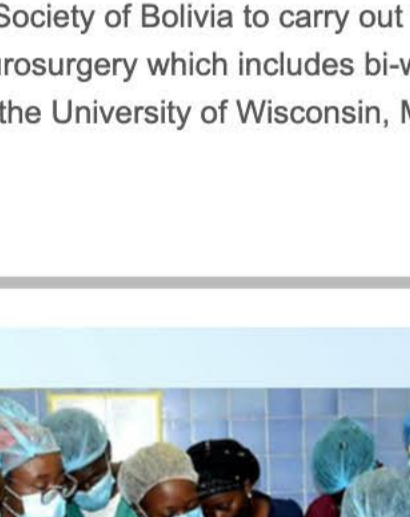
SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2025

STARTS AT 7AM PT | 9AM CT | 10AM ET | 6PM EAT

Register now!



PRESENTER: SARAH WOODROW



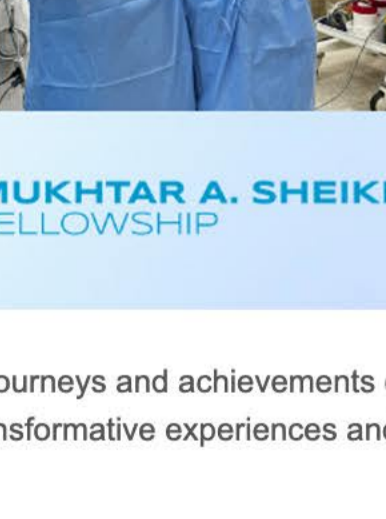
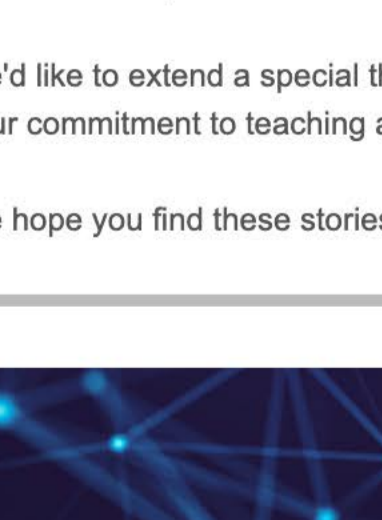
MODERATOR: SEARE HALEFOM KAHSAV

Join us for an insightful webinar featuring FIENS Board Member, Sarah Woodrow, an esteemed expert in neurosurgery, as she delves into the complexities of spinal and spinal cord tumors. Gain valuable clinical and surgical perspectives on treatment strategies, and advancements in managing these challenging conditions.

REGISTER



ALUMNI REPORTS



In the past several months we have received excellent reports from fellowship awardees, [Dr. Seare Halefom Kahsay](#) and [Dr. Huy Minh Tran](#).

The reports demonstrate how fellowships facilitate knowledge exchange, allowing fellows to learn cutting-edge techniques and innovative approaches directly from global experts. By bridging the gap between patient healthcare systems, traveling fellowships enhance the skills and expertise of neurosurgeons, ultimately improving patient care and outcomes worldwide. This cross-pollination of ideas and practices is essential for fostering a global community of neurosurgeons committed to excellence and continuous learning.

We invite you to read their reports and we thank all hosts, hospitals and funders for supporting this program!

Read their reports [here](#).

FIENS Partners with Solidarity Bridge to Support Neurosurgical Training Bootcamp in Bolivia



Last year, members of FIENS and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Neurosurgery partnered with Solidarity Bridge and the Neurosurgical Society of Bolivia to carry out to develop an ongoing curriculum for bidirectional learning in all aspects of neurosurgery which includes bi-weekly lectures, hands-on training, and opportunities for observership in the at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

To learn more about this bootcamp, please read [here](#).

MEET THE FELLOW ALUMNI

Every year young aspiring neurosurgeons are supported by FIENS fellowships and scholarships in the pursuit of building neurosurgical capacity in their home countries.

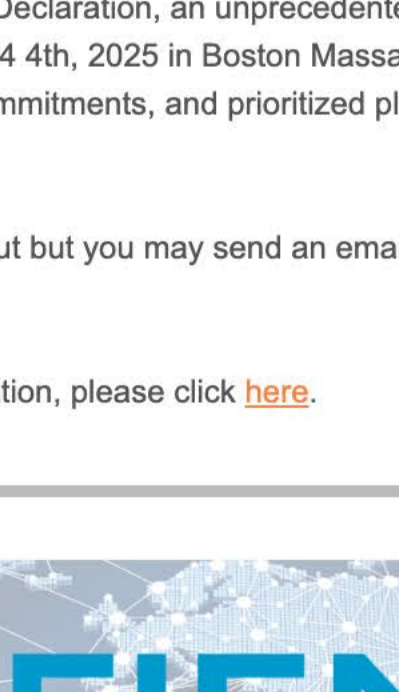


FIENS has a new page on its website dedicated to showcasing the incredible journeys and achievements of past alumni. This page features detailed fellowship reports, highlighting the transformative experiences and contributions of our fellows.

We invite you to [visit the page](#) and explore the stories of our distinguished alumni. Their reports provide valuable insights into the impact of our fellowships and the advancements they have made in neurosurgical education and practice.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to all the fellowship hosts, program sponsors and hospitals. Without your commitment to teaching and giving back, the program would not be possible.

We hope you find these stories as inspiring as we do.



Please join us in support of the Boston Declaration, an unprecedented event in the field of global neurosurgery, taking place on April 23-24 4th, 2025 in Boston Massachusetts. The event is a celebration of collaboration, tangible commitments, and prioritized pledges to broaden global neurosurgical care.

In person registration is currently sold out but you may send an email [here](#) to express interested in online participation.

To learn more about the Boston Declaration, please click [here](#).

FIENS GLOBAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

FIENS Global Surgical Volunteer Coordinators Jogi Pattisapu and Hamid Shah have been working diligently to build a list of neurosurgical volunteer opportunities this year. One future volunteer project is the spine bootcamp in Ethiopia this May, supported by board member, Sarah Woodrow.

They are also aiming to support other FIENS board member's with volunteer support at their bootcamps. Board members include Richard Moser, Roberta Glick, Jack Rock and Brandon Roque. The team is also engaging current fellows and past awardees to increase FIENS volunteer participation.

There is a large and outstanding group of volunteers who have offered their time, knowledge and energy to build neurosurgical capacity in developing countries. Our team is actively seeking out opportunities to engage more volunteers for positive international experiences over the next year.

Please reach out to the [volunteer program](#) if you have any questions or if you would like to host FIENS neurosurgical volunteers in your country in 2025. And thank you to all the neurosurgeons who have taken the time to fill out a volunteer application on the FIENS site. We are most appreciative of your willingness to donate your time to the advancement of global neurosurgery.

DONATE TO FIENS TODAY

