

Dear Members,

It is with deep sadness that we heard of the passing of our friend and colleague, Doug Cochrane (1950-2024). He was a distinguished, gifted and passionate neurosurgeon with a humble and warm character that attracted all who knew him, colleagues, patients and their families. A former Executive Committee member, he embodied the essence of this society in open discussions and positive support for everyone engaged in the field, a great supporter of the young members looking for mentors. He will be very sadly missed and fondly remembered. A full appreciation of his life can be found here: <https://www.springfieldfuneralhome.com/obituaries/cochrane-david-douglas-dr/>

Spring is in the air even though temperatures have yet to rise in the UK. That said, I am writing from Lahore in Pakistan where I am visiting the Children's Hospital and University of Child Health Sciences. A very warm 24°C in their spring heading for 40°C+ in the summer! This is reputedly the second biggest Children's Hospital in the world and probably the largest in patient numbers with 4-6000 kids arriving every day at OPD and 1500 into emergency. Of the latter the biggest issues are birth asphyxia, CNS infections, prematurity and seizures. A huge number of hydrocephalus and spina bifida patients go to neurosurgery (90+/day). This gives a real life perspective on the research we all do towards potential preventatives and better treatments.

The really good to share with you all is that our annual meeting is now up and ready for abstract submissions. We have a stellar cast of keynote speakers in a number of themes across 3 days. Please do look at the details on the website and submit your abstracts to the topic sessions or general session. Oral and poster presentations accepted with our usual prizes on offer. And we have another year of support from the Waite family for summer student research projects as well as Integra and Norman Guthkelch early career awards. If you fancy your hand at essay writing, why don't you submit one for the Casey Holter Essay Prize? This year we intend to restart publication of abstracts so we hope as many of you as possible will join us for an exciting meeting of minds. I recall the meeting I first attended in Manchester in 1996 and hope we see the many disciplines that attended that year.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Manchester in September and wish you all the best for a happy spring and summer.

Jaleel Miyan
President SRHSB

SRHSB 2024 Annual Conference—University of Manchester-September 4-6

