2025 Grand Plenary Speakers

Tuesday, June 10, 8:00 am – noon

Featuring the following special guest lecturers!

CSNR – Terbrugge Lecture

Cognitive errors in Neuroradiology and how to prevent them!

Carlos Torres, MD, FRCPC FCAR

Dr. Carlos Torres is a Full Professor at the Department of Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Medical Physics at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, and a neuroradiologist and CME Director at the Department of Medical Imaging at The Ottawa Hospital.

He is the immediate Past President of the Ibero Latin American Society of Neuroradiology (SILAN), a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) and a member of the Executive Committees of the American Society of Spine Radiology (ASSR) and of the Eastern Neuroradiological Society (ENRS).

Dr. Torres has given more than 500 national and international invited lectures in 45 different countries and is regularly invited to speak at all the major Radiology and Neuroradiology Meetings, on a wide range of Neuroradiology topics. He has been a National and International Visiting Professor to multiple academic centres in the US and Canada as well as in Asia, Central and South America, including Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Chile, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Mongolia.

Dr. Torres is actively involved in medical education and research; his main areas of interest include vascular pathologies, demyelinating disease, spine and brachial plexus imaging, as well as tumor imaging. He has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and 22 book chapters. He is an Associate Editor of the Canadian Association of Radiologists journal CARJ, an Editor of the journal 3D Printing in Medicine and a reviewer for multiple journals including AJNR, Neuroradiology Journal and European Radiology.

He has received numerous departmental, national and international awards for his teaching and research including the uOttawa Faculty of Medicine Educator of the Year Award, the Undergrad Teacher of the Year Award, the Radiology Staff Teacher of the Year Award, the prestigious RSNA Honored Educator Award and the National Order of Merit Award in the Rank of Officer from the Republic of Colombia (equivalent to The Order of Canada) for his scientific contributions in the field of Diagnostic Neuroradiology.

CNS – Richardson Lecture

Expanding Global Access to Neurology Care through Education

Aaron Berkowitz, MD, PhD, FAAN

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz is a professor of clinical neurology at UCSF, where he serves as a neurohospitalist, general neurologist, and clinician-educator at San Francisco General Hospital. He previously served as director of global neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School after graduating from the Harvard Brigham and Women's Hospital-Massachusetts General Hospital neurology residency, where he served as chief resident.

Dr. Berkowitz has worked tirelessly to improve access to neurologic care and education worldwide, collaborating with organizations including Partners In Health, Doctors Without Borders, and the Indian Health Service of the Navajo Nation. This work has been recognized by the Mridha Humanitarian Award from the American Brain Foundation in 2018 and the Viste Patient Advocate of the Year Award from the AAN in 2019.

Dr. Berkowitz's work as a neurology educator has been recognized by the UCSF Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Award in 2024, Residency Teacher of the Year Award from the Harvard Neurology Residency program in both 2019 and 2020, the O'Hara Excellence in Preclinical Teaching award from Harvard Medical School in 2016, and appointment to the editorial boards of Continuum and Practical Neurology. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles, several book chapters including the neurology chapter for the Oxford Manual of Humanitarian Medicine, and four books including the neurology textbook Clinical Neurology and Neuroanatomy: A Localization-Based Approach and One by One by One: Making a Small Difference Amid a Billion Problems about his work caring for patients with brain tumors in rural Haiti.

2025 Grand Plenary Speakers

CSCN Gloor Lecture

Autoimmune Autonomic Disorders

Steven Vernino, MD, PhD

Steven Vernino, MD, PhD is Professor and Vice Chair of Neurology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He is director of the autonomic disorders program and the multidisciplinary clinical center of excellence for multiple system atrophy clinic. He holds the Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation Distinguished Chair in Neuromuscular Disease Research and the Rex Griswold Distinguished Professorship in Multiple System Atrophy.

Dr. Vernino earned his MD and PhD in Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine. He completed neurology residency and fellowship training in neuroimmunology and EMG at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He is Board Certified in Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine, and Autonomic Disorders. He has served as president of the American Autonomic Society and the medical advisory boards of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, The MSA Coalition, Encephalitis 411 and Dysautonomia International. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), American Neurological Association and American Autonomic Society. Dr. Vernino has been recognized as an outstanding clinician, researcher and teacher with numerous awards. He was recipient of the 1998 AAN Founders Award, 2013 AAN program director award, 2016 Regents Outstanding Teacher Award from the University of Texas system, and 2024 Irwin Schatz Award for Autonomic Disorders from the AAN. He is a past president of the American Autonomic Society.

Dr. Vernino has published over 180 peer-reviewed articles as well as dozens of book chapters. His main research interest has been in treatment of autonomic disorders and in helping to establish the field of autoimmune neurology. Most notably, he identified the presence of antibodies to ganglionic acetylcholine receptors as the cause of a rare disorder of the autonomic nervous system, autoimmune autonomic ganglionopathy (AAG), as well as characterizing several neurological antibodies related to paraneoplastic disorders. He established a multidisciplinary care model for multiple system atrophy (MSA) at UT Southwestern leading to the designation of MSA centers of excellence by Mission MSA. Dr. Vernino has been involved in numerous collaborative and investigator-initiated clinical trials. He was the co-chair of an NIH workshop on defining priorities for POTS research, and he was recently awarded an NIH R01 grant to better define the clinical features of POTS.

CACN Tibbles Lecture

Migraine: Better Understanding, Better Treatments, Better Future

David Dodick, MD, FACP, FRCP (C), FAAN

David W. Dodick, MD, is Emeritus Professor of Neurology. He is a Mayo Clinic Distinguished Investigator and Distinguished Educator. He founded and directed the headache and concussion programs at Mayo Clinic and co-found the Vascular Neurology program. He is Affiliate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Guest Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and Adjunct Professor at Thomas Jefferson University.

He has authored more than 900 peer-reviewed manuscripts and abstracts and authored/edited 13 books. He is the Chief Science Officer and Co-Chair of the Atria Academy of Science and Medicine, and Chief Medical Officer of Atria Health. He is Co-Director of the World Federation of Neurology's World Brain Day and Co-Chair of WFN's Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee. He is the Co-founder International Concussion Society. He is the Immediate Past-Chair of the American Brain Foundation and Immediate Past Chair of the International Headache Society's Global Patient Advocacy Coalition. He is Past Chair of the American Migraine Foundation.
He is a former Editor-in-Chief of Cephalalgia, a Past-President of the American Headache Society and a Past-President of the International Headache Society.

2025 Grand Plenary Speakers

CNSS Penfield Lecture

Seven Cavernomas: Taxonomy, Cartography, and the Mind

Michael Lawton, MD

Michael T. Lawton, MD, is the President and CEO of Barrow Neurological Institute and the Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. He is board certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery. Dr. Lawton's neurosurgical expertise includes cerebrovascular disorders (aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, cavernous malformations, and stroke) and skull base tumors. He has experience in treating more than 5,200 brain aneurysms, 990 AVMs, and 1,000 cavernous malformations, including more than 300 in the brain stem and other highly delicate areas of the brain. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Society of Neurological Surgeons, American Academy of Neurological Surgery, and World Academy of Neurological Surgery.

Dr. Lawton received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Brown University. He completed his neurosurgery residency at Barrow, where he also completed a fellowship in cerebrovascular and skull base surgery. After joining the faculty at University of California, San Francisco, he later completed a fellowship in endovascular surgery there.

Dr. Lawton's research studies the formation, underlying genetics, and rupture of brain AVMs, as well as the hemodynamics, rupture, and computational modeling of brain aneurysms. His clinical research studies the anatomy of microsurgical approaches and clinical outcomes of microsurgery for aneurysms, AVMs, and bypass surgery. He is the principal investigator for the Brain Vascular Malformation Consortium, an NIH-funded multicenter group studying the genetics and clinical course of rare vascular diseases of the brain. He has published more than 770 peer-reviewed articles, six single-author textbooks, and more than 100 book chapters.

Knowing neurosurgical education must continue during the pandemic, Dr. Lawton launched Seven Series, a collection of narrated case studies with histories, imaging studies, and Illustrations from the Barrow Neuroscience Publications animation studio. He also initiated Barrow Base Camp, a series of videos capturing resident teaching rounds to help neuro-surgeons sharpen their skills.

CSC Sandra Black Lecture

Addressing Inequities in Stroke Care and Outcomes

Joanna Wardlaw, CBE, MD, FRSE, FMedSci

Professor Joanna Wardlaw, CBE, MD, FRSE, FMedSci, is Professor of Applied Neuroimaging at the University of Edinburgh, Foundation Chair in the UK Dementia Research Institute, and Consultant Neuroradiologist for NHS Lothian. Her work focuses on understanding the brain and its blood supply, and on treatments to improve blood flow to the brain, including thrombolytic drugs that are now in routine use to treat stroke, and more recently on treatments for small vessel disease and vascular dementia. Working with many colleagues, she has been instrumental in advancing understanding of the causes of cerebral small vessel disease and is now testing treatments in clinical trials. She has set up national research imaging facilities, co-ordinated international research networks, advanced stroke care worldwide and published over 1000 papers. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences, she has received awards from many UK and international brain and heart organisations, and was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Medicine and Neuroscience in 2016.