

# SANS Newsletter

Our Reader Is Our Leader

ON 2  
VOLUME 3



الجمعية السعودية لجراحة المخ والأعصاب  
تهنئكم بحلول عيد الفطر المبارك

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## Issue's Message

**We are pleased to present the latest issue of the SANS Newsletter!**

In this issue, we welcome our new board members and thank our outgoing members.

We are also proud to welcome Professor Ahmed Alkhani as a special guest editor for the latest issue of our newsletter. He has prepared a comprehensive report on the 2022 SANS Annual Meeting.

Among the many highlights of the latest newsletter, you will find an article on the academic productivity of neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia.

In this issue, you will also read a candid interview with Dr. Ahmed Alferayan. We are grateful that he took some time to answer some questions about neurosurgery and the profession in general.

In the Arabic Corner, it is worth exploring an interesting concept coined by Dr. Mohammed Bafaquh.

We would like to thank our regular contributor Dr. Mohammed Bafaquh, for providing us with clinical challenges.

As always, we welcome your contributions, feedback, and suggestions to further improve our newsletter. Please click [HERE](#) to contact us and share your contribution.



**We are glad to announce that SANS Newsletter will issue Certificates of Contributions for residents. The final decision on what gets published and who earns a certificate is with the editorial board members.**



## NEUROSURGERY IN SAUDI ARABIA

### SANS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Welcome New Board Members...  
Thank You outgoing members!



The new Executive Board brings together 9 high-level representatives. They will lead the implementation of our upcoming work plans. We warmly welcome and congratulate:

Dr. Abdulrazag Ajlani (**President**)  
Dr. Khalid Siddiqui (**Vice President**)  
Dr. Hosam Al-Jehani (**Secretary General**)  
Dr. Fawaz Almotairi (**Treasure**)  
Dr. Ahmed Al Feryan (**Member**)  
Dr. Mohammed Bafaquh (**Member**)  
Dr. Mohammad Alkutbi (**Member**)  
Dr. Mubarak Al-Gahtany (**Member**)  
Dr. Khalid Bajunaaid (**Member**)

We are excited to have this group of individuals join the Board and bring their unique perspectives to the work of SANS.

#### Farewell to Previous Board Members

Finally, a big thank you went to Professor Amro Al-Habib for completing his term as President. A very special thank you also went to the board members who just finished their term (Dr. Ali Bin Salamah, Dr. Husam Alhabib, Dr. Salah Al-Akkad, Dr. Abdulwahed Barnawi, Dr. Ibrahim Alnaami), as well as to Ms. Sumayah Abunayyan for her preparation of the election process. We are truly grateful to these outgoing members who have invested a lot of time in the growth of SANS and look forward to staying connected.



1-3 March 2016 The Ritz-Carlton Riyadh

10<sup>th</sup> SANS - 2016  
الجمعية السعودية للجراحة المخ والأعصاب  
SAUDI ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

A Decade of SANS: Towards A Brighter Tomorrow

We thank all of the board members and look forward to working together to advance the mission of SANS.

# A Message From Our New President

**Dear members of SANS, dear colleagues and friends,**

As we begin our term as the newly elected board for The Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery (SANS), we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the previous board and the members of SANS for providing us with the opportunity to further develop our society.



Our country is developing rapidly and dynamically under the leadership of our beloved King Salman bin Abdulaziz and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In 2016, Vision 2030 was launched with a clear mission to improve the quality of life for all Saudi citizens, including their mental and physical health. We, as a scientific society and healthcare provider, are part of this vision and we continue to support our leaders to achieve it.

Since our society was founded in 2007, it has had a clear mission to support the study and advancement of the field of neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia in order to provide the highest quality of patient care. This has been achieved by supporting and improving the areas of training, research and public education.

As SANS new Board, we look forward to building on this foundation and moving forward with our initiatives.

We believe we have another important goal, which is to promote the professional development of people in the field of neurosurgery. We believe we have so many great people and so many opportunities. We want to engage you and work collaboratively to grow our association and improve neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia.

We are very excited to lead such an important professional association that we have been a part of since its foundation. We look forward to collaborating with all of you to leverage new opportunities to increase the value of membership and the growth of our profession.

We thank you for your commitment, interest, leadership and support of SANS. We look forward to serving you in the years to come.

**Sincerely,**  
**Dr. Abdulrazag Ajlan**  
President of SANS

## NEUROSURGERY IN SAUDI ARABIA

# Academic Productivity of Neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia

By Professor Abdulhakim B. Jamjoom  
King Khalid National Guards Hospital  
King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University  
For Health Sciences

By Dr. Abdulhadi Y. Gahtani  
King Khalid National Guards Hospital  
King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University  
For Health Sciences



**Background:** the *h*-index is a bibliometric measure introduced by Hirsch in 2005. It combines the number of publications and the number of citations into a single number that indicates a researcher's scientific output. Over the past decade, assessing the academic productivity of researchers has been the subject of worldwide interest. The *h*-index is now an accepted measure for practises such as evaluating grant allocation, employment, promotion, prizes, and memberships in societies. In 2015, a survey of the *h*-index for neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia was published (Neurosciences 2015; 20(4): 392-395). In the study, a median (range) *h*-index of 2.5 (0-33) was determined for 84 neurosurgeons working in Saudi Arabia between 1990 and 2013. In the report, the group of neurosurgeons working at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh was ranked as having the highest *h*-index among other institutes in Saudi Arabia. However, the *h*-index for individual neurosurgeons was not described in the article.

**Objectives:** To assess the academic productivity of all neurosurgeons working in Saudi Arabia and to identify the 20 with the highest *h*-indexes and total citations.

**Methods:** All consultant neurosurgeons practicing in Saudi Arabia were identified using data from the Saudi Council for Health Specialties and by directly contacting the neurosurgeons themselves. A list of 238 neurosurgeons was compiled in September 2021. Using Google Scholar, the *h*-index and total number of citations were extracted from each neurosurgeon's profile. When this was not available, the data were collected using the neurosurgeon's profile in Scopus or calculated manually using Google Scholar. The 20 neurosurgeons with the highest *h*-index were identified and their measures were updated on April 21, 2022.

**Limitations of the study:** there are many limitations that may affect the accuracy of the results. The study is highly dependent on the accuracy of the search engines: Google Scholar and Scopus. There may be errors in the calculation of citations due to misspellings and duplicate names. There may be inconsistencies between the processing of citations in Google Scholar and Scopus, so the alternative may be criticised. Citations were recorded at a specific point in time, which is likely to change very quickly.

## Academic Productivity of Neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia

It is possible that a few neurosurgeons working in Saudi Arabia were overlooked, but this is probably does not affect the results of the study. Finally, it would be fair to state that although the *h*-index is a useful tool, it does not truly reflect the academic productivity of a neurosurgeon or the quality of research.

**Results:** the median (range) *h*-index for the cohort of 238 neurosurgeons working in Saudi Arabia in September 2022 was 2.8 (0-27). No calculable *h*-index score was found in 47.9% of the neurosurgeons. The 20 neurosurgeons with the highest *h*-index based on their profiles on Google Scholar and Scopus on April 21, 2022, are listed in the following table:

| Neurosurgeon | Institute   | Total cites | <i>h</i> -Index |
|--------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| Jamjoom, A   | King Khalid National Guards Hospital, Jeddah                | 1841        | <b>27</b>       |
| Alotaibi, N  | King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh                             | 1491        | <b>24</b>       |
| Ammar, A     | King Fahad University Hospital, AlKhobar                    | 1700        | <b>22</b>       |
| Baeesa, S    | King Abdulaziz University Hospital, Jeddah                  | 1773        | <b>20</b>       |
| Sheikh, B    | Taiba University & King Fahad Hospital, Madinah             | 1200        | <b>20</b>       |
| Kanaan, I    | King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh | 1265*       | <b>19*</b>      |
| Sabbagh, A   | King Abdulaziz University Hospital, Jeddah                  | 1119        | <b>19</b>       |
| Alturki, A   | King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh                             | 1061        | <b>18</b>       |
| Alkhani, A   | King Fahad National Guards Hospital, Riyadh                 | 1092        | <b>17</b>       |
| Murshid, W   | Taiba University & King Fahad Hospital, Madinah             | 985         | <b>16</b>       |
| Ajlan, A     | King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh                     | 888         | <b>16</b>       |
| Bajunaid, K  | Jeddah Uni & King Abdulaziz University Hospital, Jeddah     | 654         | <b>16</b>       |
| Orz, Y       | King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh                             | 864         | <b>15</b>       |
| Alotaibi, FE | King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh                             | 635         | <b>15</b>       |
| AlShail, E   | King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh | 1272*       | <b>14*</b>      |
| Anonymous    | King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh | 684         | <b>14</b>       |
| Elwatidy, S  | King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh                     | 638*        | <b>14*</b>      |
| AlAnazi, A   | King Fahad University Hospital, AlKhobar                    | 553         | <b>14</b>       |
| Alhabib, A   | King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh                     | 522*        | <b>14*</b>      |
| Hassounah, M | King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh | 1045        | <b>13</b>       |
| Al-Jehani, H | King Fahad University Hospital, AlKhobar                    | 537         | <b>13</b>       |

Source: Individual Profiles @ Google Scholar, \*Scopus/Google Scholar (manual)

**Conclusions:** the *h*-index distribution of neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia is skewed. Most neurosurgeons had no *h*-index or a relatively low *h*-index. The academic productivity of neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia continues to be influenced by the neurosurgical centre and training opportunities abroad. Differences

among colleagues within the same centre suggest that personal effort is an important factor. Research should be encouraged among trainees and research projects should be introduced as part of the curriculum for the Saudi Board in Neurosurgery.



# THE EXPERT'S VOICE

## An Interview with A Neurosurgeon

We had the pleasure of interviewing a prominent neurosurgeon at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Ministry of National Guard, Dr. Ahmed Alferayan. We are appreciative that Dr. Ahmed was able to take time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions related to neurosurgery and the profession in general. It is our pleasure to hear his perspectives on neurosurgery.

**Here's the interview:**



**SANS Newsletter (SN):** What are you most proud of personally?

**Ahmed Alferayan (AF):** Neurosurgical Career

**(SN):** Describe yourself using three words.

**(AF):** Father, neurosurgeon and friend

**(SN):** What are you passionate about?

**(AF):** Helping patients as best as I can

**(SN):** How do you handle stressful situations?

**(AF):** Believing in myself. choosing the best for the patient

**(SN):** What are you known for?

**(AF):** Endoscopy, skull base and Siamese twins separation

**(SN):** Most overused phrase.

**(AF):** Be patient, do not rush things

**(SN):** What was the best advice anyone ever gave you?

**(AF):** Do not overdo things and remember that the enemy of good is better

**(SN):** If you were not a neurosurgeon, what career would you choose?

**(AF):** Engineer

**(SN):** What is your favourite movie?

**(AF):** The last Samurai

**(SN):** How do you spend your spare time?

**(AF):** Travelling and meeting friends

**(SN):** You are one of the pioneers of Neurosurgery. What got you interested in neurosurgery?

**(AF):** Passion to face challenges

**(SN):** We are wondering about what is your genetic background. Do you have doctors in your family? How do your children look at you as a dad and neurosurgeon?

**(AF):** Native Riyadh, first doctor in the family. My children appreciate the hard work I did as a neurosurgeon

**(SN):** Which neurosurgeon (living or deceased) most influenced your neurosurgical career?

**(AF):** Professor Perneczky

**(SN):** Can you please share some of your experiences in the early days of your practice?

**(AF):** In 1994, I returned to KSA from Germany, completed the German Board of Neurosurgery.



## Interview with Dr. Ahmed Alferayan 2 / 3

In the first month after my return, I encountered a difficult case of a large optic glioma, which I successfully completed. I began neuroendoscopy and stereotaxy in National Guard hospitals and pioneered neuroendoscopy in Saudi Arabia.

**(SN):** As a successful neurosurgeon, how did you strike a balance among some roles and duties?

**(AF):** Managed by setting priorities. Balanced neurosurgical duties and family responsibilities

**(SN):** Could you describe your journey in Residency? Any lessons learned

**(AF):** Residency started in 1989 and ended in 1994 in one of the leading German institutes (Johannes Gutenberg University)

Work hard and fight for your rights, ignore negative comments, study basic sciences very well (anatomy and pathology), participate in all activities in the department. Be a team player and help your colleagues, be a safe surgeon. Consider your patient as your close relative.

**(SN):** What was your first experience actually working on the brain surgically, and do you remember it, and what did you feel about it?

**(AF):** During training, we (as assistants) saw the brain, so it became familiar to us as surgeons.

Carefully studied all images, lab work and related them to the clinical condition of the patient to choose the best approach to help the patient.

**(SN):** Describe the biggest issue you see challenging your practice?

**(AF):** I have been in private practice for 6 years now and we are faced with heartbreaking situations, such as brain tumour patients who do not have health insurance and struggle to pay their medical bills.

**(SN):** What is the majority of your surgical practice?

**(AF):** Majority of cases are trigeminal neuralgias and pituitary adenomas.

**(SN):** Do you have a specific case that sticks with you?

**(AF):** The Saudi craniopagus Rana and Raneem were successfully separated with the team and are now enjoying a normal life

**(SN):** How do you feel about taking responsibility for choices that you know will profoundly affect your patient's life?

**(AF):** When I know I can help the patient, confidence in myself leads me to make important decisions to help the patients

**(SN):** In 2016, You had led the multidisciplinary team to perform a complex operation to separate the Syrian Craniopagus Conjoined Twins (Tuga & Yageen), Could you tell us more about it?

**(AF):** Tuga and Yageen were conjoined twins (craniopagus), we as a team did it in 4 stages. It would not have been possible without the excellent teamwork from different specialties (8 specialties).

**(SN):** What future do you envision in neurosurgery?

**(AF):** I see that today we have a new generation of well-trained physicians who were trained either locally or in Europe or North America. These new comers will hopefully raise neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia to a new level so that it meets or exceeds European or North American standards. I advise them to be patient and to be a team player.

**(SN):** As a successful neurosurgeon, what is important in neurosurgical training?

**(AF):** Ethics, training, hard work and good communication with others.

**(SN):** What advice would you give to students who aspire to be in neurosurgery?

**(AF):** I will tell them that neurosurgery is a long journey that requires patience, courage, sacrifice and hard work. Knowing that it has a bright future.

**(SN):** Thank you for talking to us, and we are very proud of your achievements. Is there anything you can tell us that might surprise people reading the article?

**(AF):** You are welcome. Just remember that life (besides neurosurgery) should include family, friends and social activities.

# Interview with Dr. Ahmed Alferayan

## 3/3



Dr. Ahmed Alferayan is a consultant neurosurgeon at King Abdulaziz Medical City - Riyadh, Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs.

16<sup>TH</sup>

# A REVIEW OF THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

THIS YEAR'S MEETING THEME IS  
"**BACK TO LIFE**", AS SANS IS  
GATHERING IN-PERSON FOR  
THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2020

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery was held in Riyadh on 25-27 March 2022. The Department of Neurosurgery at King Abdulaziz Medical City, National Guard Health Affairs, Riyadh, hosted this important annual national event. This meeting brings together the experimental neurosurgery community to share the latest in research and promote professional development through education and training.



## SANS2022

## BACK TO LIFE





16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## GUEST EDITOR

### SANS2022 President's Message

The theme of this year "Back To Life" was self-explanatory given the situation the whole world was suffering due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Like many other associations around the world, SANS was forced to hold its annual meeting in virtual format in 2021.

This year, the 2022 annual meeting was a hybrid meeting. More than 500 delegates registered and attended in person and enjoyed an outstanding scientific program, pre-conference workshops, social activities, and industrial exhibitions.

The scientific programme was very rich with speakers of international caliber. Thanks to the high level of international and national speakers who gave their presentations in person or online.

We were honoured to have names such as Professor Najia Alabadi, Bernhard Meyer and Juan Carlos Fernandez-Miranda among our international guest speakers. Neurosurgical subspecialty sessions were held in parallel tracts in the afternoon. These included skull base, neuro-oncology, vascular/endovascular, spine, and paediatric neurosurgery.

To be continued >>



“

More than 1000 registered delegates from around the world were able to follow the scientific programme virtually



We were able to get approval from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties for a maximum of 16 CME hours for our attendees



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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

The pre-conference workshops were a great success. Participation was overwhelming. Many workshops were fully booked days before the conference date. Feedback from attendees was very encouraging to continue these workshops in future years.

The lumbar spine surgery hands on course (open surgery, MISS, microscopic and endoscopic approaches) led by Dr. David Pinilla Arias, the SANS neurosurgery study workshop directed to neurosurgical trainees led by Dr. Nabeel Alshafai, the competition for future neuroscientists led by Professor Ahmed Ammar, the student neurosurgical boot-camp for neurosurgery students led by Dr. Wisam Al-issawi, and the neuroscience nursing skills workshop led by Dr. Ibrahim Alhalal were all presented at a high academic level.

In addition, we continued Dr. Abdulrahman Sabbagh's initiative for the annual neuroscience art competition NeuroGraphia with great success and included some excellent artworks in this year's collections.

This year, SANS was honoured to collaborate with many international, regional, and national societies, including the World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS), the World Society for Stereotactic and

Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN), the Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society (PANS), the Middle-eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (MSSFN), Arab spine, the Saudi Spine Society, and the Saudi Epilepsy Society.

The industrial exhibition this year was quite excellent. After the covid-19 pandemic, many industrial companies had the opportunity to exhibit their latest products in the field of neurosurgery and spine surgery. Delegates on the other hand enjoyed the unbiased view of this part of the conference. With more than 15 exhibitors, SANS 's annual meeting proved to be one of the most important annual events in the region. This collaboration helped carry the financial burden of academic activities and allowed us to offer free registration for all of our neurosurgery trainees and online virtual registrants.

We believe that our last meeting proved beyond doubt that we all want to end the Covid-19 era and we said out loud that we are "BACK TO LIFE". We hope to see you all again at the next annual meeting of SANS in Jeddah in 2023.

**Until then, please stay healthy!**

**Professor Ahmed Alkhani, MD  
President, SANS 2022**

16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE



### President

Prof. Ahmed Alkhani

### Members

Dr. Thamer Alfawaz  
 Dr. Waleed Abdelghany  
 Dr. Wael Alshaya  
 Dr. David Pinilla  
 Dr. Ahmad Alfrayan  
 Dr. Abdulwahed Barnawi  
 Dr. Khalid Siddiqui  
 Prof. Amro Al-Habib  
 Dr. Ali Bin Salamah  
 Prof. Saleh Baeesa  
 Dr. Mubarak Algahtany  
 Prof. Abdulrahman Al Anazi  
 Dr. Saggaf Assaggaf

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



### Chairman

Dr. Ahmed Aloraidi

### Members

Dr. Sami Khairy  
 Dr. Saad Alqahatani  
 Dr. Fahad Alotaibi  
 Dr. Moutasem Alzoubi  
 Dr. Mashary Binnahil  
 Dr. Abdulrazag Ajlan  
 Dr. Homoud Aldahash  
 Dr. Ibrahim Alnaami  
 Dr. Soha Alomar  
 Dr. Ahmed Alzahrani  
 Dr. Faisal Al Otaibi  
 Dr. Mohammed Binmahfoodh

## STEERING COMMITTEE



**Prof. Ahmed Alkhani**  
**Dr. Ahmed Aloraidi**

### Members

Dr. Thamer Alfawaz  
 Dr. Sami Khairy  
 Ms. Sumayah Abunayyan  
 Ms. Ong Khai Lee

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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



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## WORKSHOPS

Many workshops were fully booked days before the conference date

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## SPEAKERS



## SESSIONS

This year's SANS 2022 meeting consisted of a two day scientific programme divided into 4 plenary sessions and 6 afternoon sessions in 3 parallel tracts. In addition, there were two special sessions and one session in collaboration with the Saudi Epilepsy Society. There was also a session to honour three of our senior neurosurgeons who retired from the National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, including Drs. Mohammed Al Wohaibi, Ahmed Al Furayan, and Abdulaziz Al Arifi.

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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Bandar Al Knawy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Health Affairs, Ministry of National Guard.

In his opening speech, Dr. Al Knawy welcomed the international and national faculty and delegates to the conference.



His Excellency presented the trophies for this year's SANS International Award Medal recipient Dr. Lozano, 2022 SANS Medal Professor Essam Al Shail, and 2021 SANS Medal to Professor Saleh Baeesa.



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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## OPENING RECEPTION

The opening reception and faculty dinner were exceptional events for our association members and meeting attendees to get to know each other personally and to re-strengthen the scientific and social bonds to advance our practise in the field of neurosurgery.



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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SPECIAL SESSIONS

### Professor Khalaf Almutairi Lecture

Professor Andres Lozano

This special session was dedicated to the lecture of the late Professor Khalaf Almutairi. This important annual memorial lecture was delivered this year by Professor Andres Lozano who gave a very interesting talk on "Advances in Deep Brain Stimulation".



### The History Of Neurosurgery At The National Guard Hospital In Riyadh

Dr. Mohammed Al Wohaibi

This special session was given by Dr. Mohammed Al Wohaibi, who gave a very interesting talk on the history of neurosurgery at the National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, entitled "Memories".

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# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### LUMBAR SPINE SURGERY HANDS ON COURSE

March 24,2022 | In-Person

**Course director:** Dr. David Pinilla Arias, Dr. Thamer Alfawaz

**Number of Attendees:** 17

### STUDENTS NEUROSURGICAL BOOT-CAMP

March 25,2022 | In-Person

**Course director:** Dr. Wisam Al-issawi

**Number of Attendees:** 38

### SANS NEUROSURGERY STUDY WORKSHOP

March 25,2022 | In-Person

**Course director:** Dr. Nabeel Alshafai

**Number of Attendees:** 72

### NEUROSCIENCE NURSING SKILLS WORKSHOP

March 25,2022 | In-Person

**Course director:** Dr. Ibrahim Alhalal

**Number of Attendees:** 56





16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

MSSFN

Middle-eastern Society for  
Stereotactic & Functional  
Neurosurgery

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF SAUDI ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY SANS 2022  
Riyadh, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery (SANS 2022)**  
**26 MARCH 2022**  
**DAY ONE**

**Hall A, Middle Eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Session 1**  
Chairman Dr. Ibrahim Althobaiti | Dr. Tariq Al Jared | Dr. Walid Abdel Ghany

| Time          | Topic  | Speaker               |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| 13:00-13:20   | Neuro Technologies in the treatment of CNS lesions   | Prof. Rita Diaz       |
| 13:20-13:35   | SEEG: From accurate implantation to 3D seizure mapping and network disruptions   | Prof. Angelo Pichieri |
| 13:35-13:50   | Double Target DBS for Head Tremor  | Prof. Atilla Yilmaz   |
| 13:50-14:05   | A Moyen Term Results in Surgery of Parkinson Disease   | Prof. Lakhdar Guenane |
| 14:05-14:15   | Deep Brain Stimulation: A -15year institutional experience   | Prof. Fadi Al-Maharik |
| 14:15-14:25   | Structural changes in brains of patients with disorders of consciousness treated with deep brain stimulation   | Prof. Marina Ragu     |
| 14:25-14:35   | Comparison of Refractory Epilepsy Outcome in Palliative Epilepsy Surgeries: Corpus Callosotomy Versus Corpus Callosotomy and Vagal Nerve Stimulation | Dr. Fatima Fakhroo    |
| 14:35-14:45   | Frameless stereotactic brain biopsy: A prospective study on robotic assisted brain biopsies performed on 32 patients by using the RONNA G4 system    | Prof. Darko Chudy     |
| 14:45-14:55   | Quality of life and social outcomes following epilepsy surgery   | Dr. Renad Saleh       |
| 14:55-15:00   | Discussion   | All panelists         |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Coffee Break   |                       |

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF SAUDI ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY SANS 2022  
Riyadh, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**16<sup>th</sup> SANS Annual Meeting, MNG-HA, Riyadh (SANS 2022)**  
**27 MARCH 2022**  
**DAY TWO**

**Hall B, Middle-eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Session 2**  
Chairman Dr. Ahmed Najjar | Dr. Fahd Alsabaie | Dr. Amal Al-Yahya

| Time          | Topic   | Speaker                |
|---------------|---|------------------------|
| 13:00 - 13:20 | The potential role of focused ultrasound in neurosurgery  | Prof. Andres Lozano    |
| 13:20 - 13:35 | Indirect neuromodulation for hypertension   | Prof. Walid Abdulghany |
| 13:35 - 13:45 | Targeting Sub-thalamic nucleus utilizing SW-MRI Images in DBS surgeries for Parkinson's Disease: NNI experience | Dr. Fahd Alsabaie      |
| 13:45 - 14:00 | "Volume Target Delineation Of Malignant Brain Tumors in Gamma Knife Radiosurgery: Time To Change The Paradigm?" | Prof. Fahd Derkassou   |
| 14:00 - 14:10 | STEP-WISE RADIOLOGICAL CALLOSOTOMY IN EPILEPSY  | Prof. Hussein Hamdi    |
| 14:10 - 14:20 | Stereotactic EEG  | Dr. Ahmed Najjar       |
| 14:20 - 14:30 | "7 patients with 7 stories after 7 months of spinal cord stimulation: Implantation (real live testimonials)"    | Dr. Eyad Faleo         |
| 14:30 - 14:40 | "Deep Brain Stimulation in Disorders of Consciousness: a single institutional experience"                       | Prof. Darko Chudy      |
| 14:40 - 14:50 | Experience of 1000 cases of Radiosurgery, Prince Sultan Military Medical City Riyadh                            | Prof. Ahmad Ashraf     |
| 14:50 - 15:00 | Discussion  | All panelists          |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Coffee Break  |                        |

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This year, our annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 3rd meeting of the Middle-eastern Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (MSSFN), a regional society dedicated to this subspecialty of neurosurgery. This was the third meeting after the 1st and 2nd meetings in Dubai and Cairo, respectively. The scientific programme of the society's meeting was integrated with the main activities of SANS and included 2 sessions dedicated to this subspecialty in the parallel afternoon sessions on the 2 days of the scientific program.



16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022: AWARD WINNERS

### SANS International Award Medal

Professor  
Andres Lozano



Dr. Lozano is Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto and is best known for his work in the field of Deep Brain Stimulation. He ranks first in the world in terms of total number of citations in the field of DBS. (1)

16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022: AWARD WINNERS

### SANS Gold Award Medal

Professor  
Essam Al Shail



Upon the occasion of the 16th Annual Meeting of the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery (SANS) from March 25 to 27, 2022, the SANS Gold Medal was awarded to professor Essam Al Shail from Saudi Arabia. Professor Essam has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the SANS Gold

Medal for his longstanding contributions to the field of neurosurgery. SANS awards this medal each year during the annual meeting to a neurosurgeon in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to the specialty.

16<sup>TH</sup>

## THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

### **Sans Gold Medalist:** Professor Essam Al Shail IFAANS, MBA



Professor Essam Al Shail is the director of international affairs at the corporate level of King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research

Centre (KFSH&RC).

In addition, Dr. Al Shail is a professor of neurosurgery at the College of Medicine, Al Faisal University.

Dr. Al Shail participated in research studies and became an Adjunct Scientist in the Research Centre of KFSH&RC. He currently heads a training laboratory in microvascular surgery.

Professor Essam Al Shail was born in 1963. He obtained his MBBS degree from King Saud University in 1988 and then started his training at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre (KFSH&RC) as a resident. He then joined the first neurosurgery residency programme in Saudi Arabia. This programme was a joint effort between King Faisal University in Dammam, the military hospital in Riyadh,

and the KFSH&RC. He completed the training programme and graduated from King Faisal University in the summer of 1995.

In 1995, Professor Al Shail joined the Neurosurgery Division of the University of Toronto, Canada as Chief Clinical Fellow (Administrative) for three years. During his last year in Toronto, he joined the Paediatric Craniofacial Fellowship programme, becoming the first neurosurgeon to join this prestigious plastic surgery fellowship programme at the Hospital for Sick Children.

In 1998, he joined the neuroscience department at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH&RC) as a consultant neurosurgeon.

Over the years of his experience and medical practise, Professor Al Shail became a highly qualified neurosurgeon with 23 years of experience in the relevant fields of paediatric neurosurgery, professional consulting, teaching, research, innovation, administration and international affairs.

16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## **Sans Gold Medalist:** Professor Essam Al Shail IFAANS, MBA

Professor Al Shail has been a principal investigator, co-investigator or collaborator on competitive local institutional grants. As a result of his research findings, he has been granted more than 16 patents. He has published more than 48 papers that have been cited more than 1100 times in total. He has also contributed to 3 books.

Professor Al Shail was the first neurosurgeon to devote himself entirely to paediatric neurosurgery in 2002. His reputation was founded on his years of dedicated service to this subspecialty.

In 2012, he led the efforts of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties to establish the Saudi Paediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship Programme, the first accredited subspecialty neurosurgery training programme in the region. To date, this programme has produced six fellows. The first fellow joined the programme in 2014.

In addition to his busy clinical schedule, he performed many administrative duties. From

2006 to 2010, he served as medical director of OR Management.

He was also the head of Neurosurgery and the Deputy Chairman of the Department of Neurosciences at KFSH&RC, from 2007-2015 and 2011-2013, respectively.

He founded the Arab Paediatric Neurosurgical Society and was elected its president.

This society remains a valuable resource for neurosurgeons. He also founded the Saudi Society for Healthcare Ethics under the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. Recently, he founded the Child Brain Health Association with the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

Professor Essam is an active international member of the AANS/CNS Section of Paediatric Neurological Surgery and the European Society of Paediatric Neurosurgery. The significance of his numerous contributions, particularly to paediatric neurosurgery, has grown with the development of neurosurgery.



16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022: AWARD WINNERS



### **SANS 50,000 Riyal Research Grant for Multi-Centre Trials**

Professor Amro Al-Habib



### **8<sup>TH</sup>Annual Medical Students Neuroscience Competition**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: : Ahmed Alsenan

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mohammed Albogami

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Rafaa Algethmi

*CONGRATULATIONS!*

16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022: AWARD WINNERS

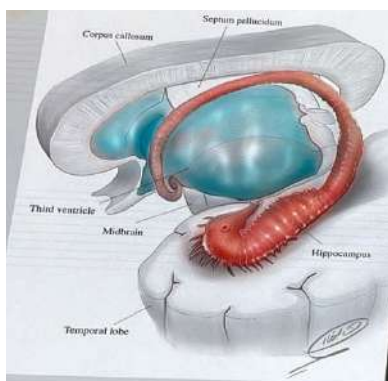
### NEUROGRAPHIA ART COMPETITION

A picture is worth a thousand words!



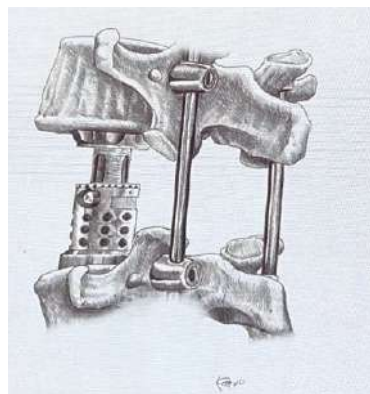
## #A

### NeuroGraphia Scientific Illustration Competition



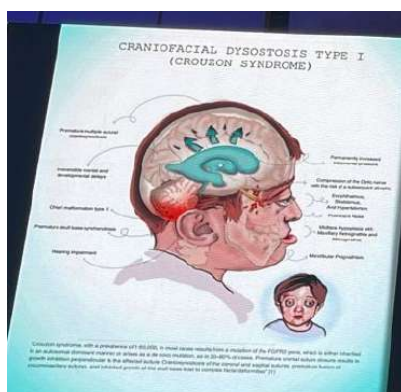
**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Dr. Fatimah Alghabban



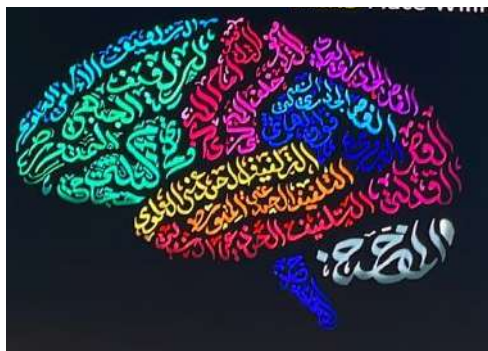
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Dr. Kimberly Ohm



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Dr. Sadeem Albulaihed



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Dr. Khalid Alghamdi

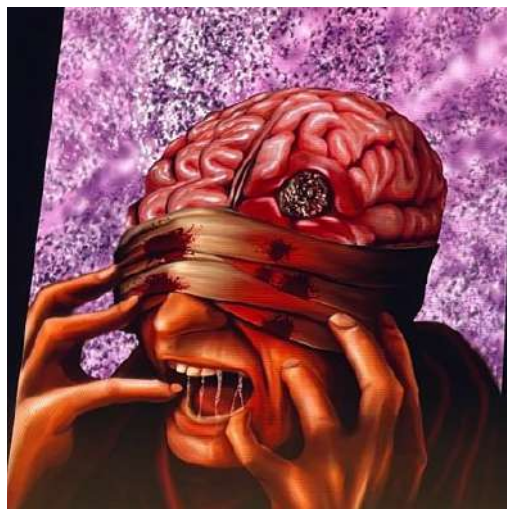
16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022: AWARD WINNERS

#B

### NeuroGraphia Art Competition



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Dr. Haya Altamimi  
Dr. Nora Alrazook



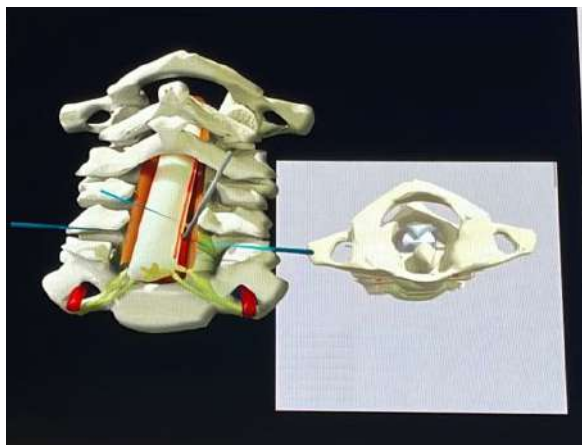
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Dr. Aysha Hawsawi



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Dr. Bushra Albarnawi



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

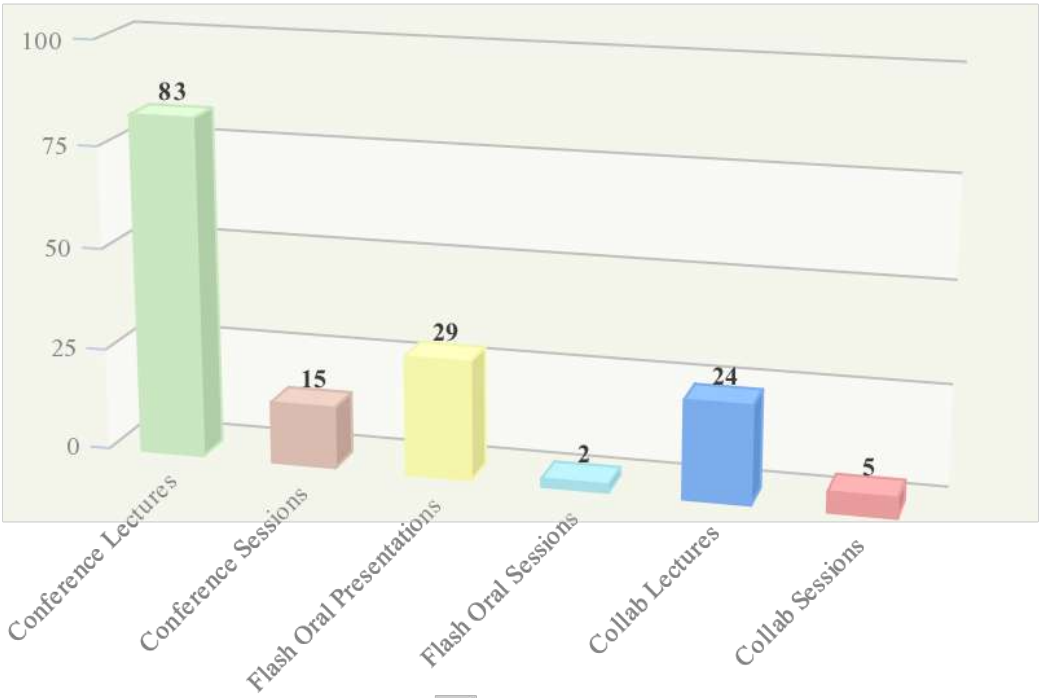
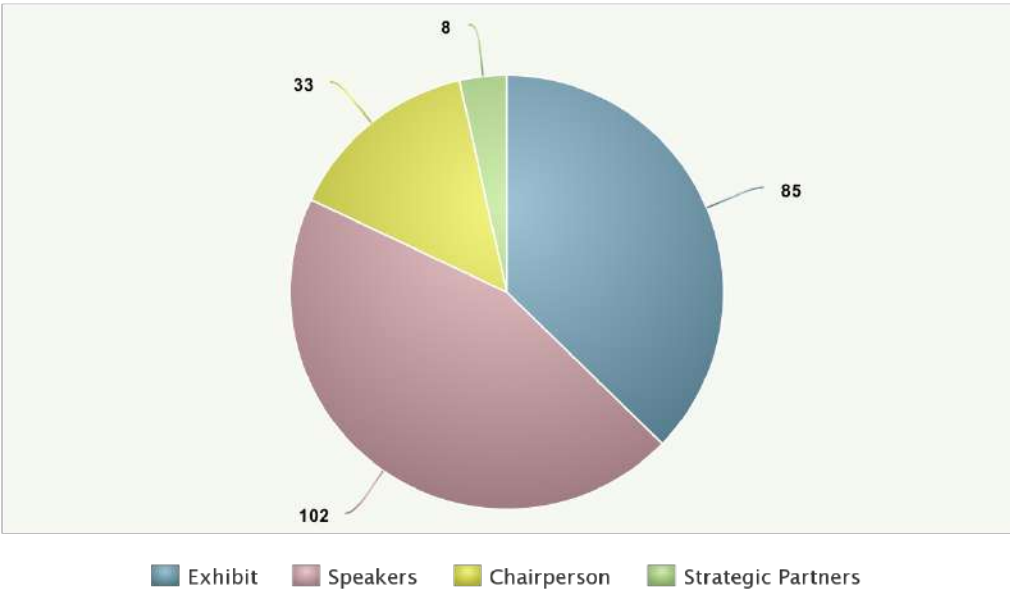
Dr. Arwa Albaiahy



# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

## SANS 2022 AT- A-GLANCE

Total Number of Delegates





16<sup>TH</sup>

# THE 2022 SANS ANNUAL MEETING

Please enjoy the photos of the event



# CLINICAL CHALLENGE

By Dr. Mohammed Bafaquh  
Consultant Neurosurgeon  
King Fahad Medical City | Riyadh



- 25-day-old boy. Second child born to a G2P2 mother in good health and excellent prenatal care.
- Family history is otherwise negative for birth defects, mental retardation and neurological disorders.



- Describe the clinical finding shown in the image.
- Describe the MRI findings.
- What is your diagnosis?
- What is the additional workup should be done for this baby and his family?

Level of difficulty: R4.

Reference: Kenwright S, Jouet M, Donnai D. X linked hydrocephalus and MASA syndrome. J Med Genet.

# Neurosurgery Community



It gives me a great privilege and special honour to share with you the joyous news that Prof. Ahmed Ammar has been awarded the WFNS Medal of Honour, the highest recognition given to elite neurosurgeons in the world.



Prof. Ammar is well known and respected in our country for his selfless dedication to neurosurgical education and training. His dedication to the

profession is unparalleled.

He has published numerous papers and authored a large collection of neurosurgical books aimed at refining and improving the essence of every neurosurgeon who reads them. I have known Prof. Ammar for many years. He is a great father, a seasoned surgeon, a wonderful physician, a

phenomenal educator, and a trusted mentor to many generations of neurosurgeons.

Awarding the WFNS Medal of Honour is the least our global neurosurgery community can do to honour the illustrious career that our beloved Prof. Ammar has had over the past 40 years.

We are indebted to Prof. Ammar for being one of the pillars of neurosurgery in our country. He has laid the foundation for an everlasting legacy of which we are all proud.

**By Dr. Hosam Al-Jehani**

A humble student of Prof. Ahmad Ammar



# Neurosurgery Community

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Dr. Mubarak Algahtany**

We would like to congratulate Dr. Mubarak Algahtany on his promotion to the rank of Professor. **Congratulations!**



**Professor Imad Kanaan**

We would like to congratulate Professor Imad Kanaan on his new position as President Elect of the World Academy of Neurological Surgeons. **Congratulations!**

## BOOK NEWS



**Dr. Abdulrahman Y. Alturki**

My eBook is out!  
I am pleased to publish the electronic version of my book "Neurovascular Diseases" one year after publication of the paper version.

## LATEST NEWS

### **The Saudi Society of Neurological Interventions (SSNI)**

We are pleased to share the news of the establishment of the Saudi Society of Neurological Interventions (SSNI) as a non-profit scientific association under the auspices of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.



# CLINICAL CHALLENGE

## The Answer



(A)



(B)

This baby has an X-linked hydrocephalus (XLH).

Classical clinical features include:

- Mental retardation.
- Bilateral spastic adducted thumbs (see B)
- Upper and lower extremity hypotonia and spasticity.
- Minor craniofacial abnormalities

### MRI:

- Hydrocephalus with enlargement of the third and lateral ventricles due to stenosis of the aqueduct of Sylvius.
- Complete absence of the corpus callosum.

### The diagnosis:

- XLH (AKA: L 1 syndrome) is rare, with a frequency between 1:25,000 and 1:50,000.
- L 1 syndrome can be caused by mutations in the L1CAM gene.

## The Arabic Corner



Photo by aboodi vesakaran on Unsplash

د. محمد بافقيه

استشاري جراحة المخ والأعصاب

مدينة الملك فهد الطبية

## شقة عزاب!



الأعزب -مع كامل التقدير والاحترام- لا يهتم كثيراً بتنظيم شقته، فهو لا يضع الأشياء في موضعها الصحيح، وقليل الاهتمام بالمحافظة على صيانة ما يستخدم من أدوات. فلو زار ضيف ما هذا الأعزب، وأراد الأخير أن يطبخ له كبسة، فإنه حتماً سيواجه عدة صعوبات، منها أن تكون الطبخة نصف محروقة أو نصف مستوية لانشغاله بالبحث عن قدر الطبخ الذي لم يضعه في موضعه الصحيح بعد آخر استخدام، كما أنه سيضطر لغسل ملعقة الأكل المتسخة والتي تركها في غرفة النوم، لتبدأ بعدها رحلة البحث عن "خيشة" الأرز والتي تُركت بجوار باب الشقة والتي سينفق وقتاً لمعرفة مكانها، وهذا هو حال المعلومة إذا لم توضع في موضعها الصحيح منقحة ومغلقة بفهم عميق وقت تلقيها لأول مرة.

من وجهة نظري إن أكبر عامل لوجود هذه المعضلة هو القراءة من الملخصات والكتيبات، والحرص على الحصول على المعلومة السريعة - بحجة ضيق وقت - وإهمال قراءة أمهات الكتب.

يعتبر التحصيل العلمي الأكاديمي عملية مُعقّدة وممتعة، وتتحكم بها الكثير من العوامل المؤثرة على جودتها. ومن هذه العوامل ما تحدث به الخبراء عن أهمية الصحة العامة، والذكاء، والقدرات الذهنية، والبيئة المحيطة.

بالنسبة للأطباء المُقيمين (Residents) فإن هذه العملية والتي تبدأ بعد التخرج هي نفض لغبار طرق التحصيل العلمي الروتيني "المدرسي" ونقلها إلى مرحلة التطوير الأكاديمي بصيغة إستراتيجية فكرية لاستثمار العقل والراقي بالقوة الفكرية للحفاظ على المعلومة بأعلى جودة ممكنة.

عند يتم طرح الأسئلة على المتدربين (Residents) خلال المرور على المرضى، وبالرغم من القدرة الذهنية الفكرية العالية، إلا أنك قد تتفاجأ أحياناً في خروج المعلومة متأخرة، وغير منظمة أو مشوّهة في بعض الأحيان.

"شقة عزاب" هو مصطلح أطلقته على مثل هذه الإجابات الغير المنظمة، والتي ينتابها عدم الوضوح. أما سبب نعني لهذه الإجابات بهذا المصطلح فيعود إلى تصوري لشكل عقل المجيب عن السؤال في تلك اللحظة.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

October  
**08-12**  
2022

[Learn more](#)

The 2022 CNS Annual Meeting  
San Francisco, California

NEWSLETTER  
Volume 3  
Issue 2  
**SANS**  
Saudi Arabia

For more information ,you can  
reach us at:



[SANS.newsletter@sans.org.sa](mailto:SANS.newsletter@sans.org.sa)



<http://www.sans.org.sa>



Let's help you to make a difference in the neurological surgery field, whatever your interest, you can help

further our mission by supporting our newsletter in submitting articles and reviewing research. We always strive to make our newsletter more than just a newsletter by being informative and using them to serve the field of Neurological Surgery. We are always open to any ideas that will help us improve our newsletter.