

FIENS SPRING NEWSLETTER

Hello

Spring has arrived, bringing with it new beginnings and exciting updates from the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS). We are delighted to present the latest edition of our newsletter, filled with noteworthy achievements, opportunities, and upcoming events that will shape the future of neurosurgical education worldwide.

First and foremost, we extend a warm welcome to [Dr. Esene, who has been appointed to the FIENS Board of Directors](#). Dr. Esene brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our esteemed team, and we are confident that his contributions will be invaluable in advancing our mission. We look forward to working closely with Dr. Esene as we continue to strengthen and expand our educational activities.

In this edition's FIENS Board Member Spotlight, we shine a light on the remarkable Prof. Yoko Kato. As an esteemed member of the board, Prof. Kato has made significant contributions to the field of neurosurgery, particularly in the areas of cerebrovascular surgery and neurosurgical education. Her dedication to training young neurosurgeons and her tireless efforts in promoting gender equality within the profession are truly commendable. We are honored to have Prof. Kato as a guiding force within FIENS.

We also provide an update about the talented [Clack Fellows](#). These fellows represent the future of neurosurgical care, and we are proud to support their growth and development.

We are excited to announce a Call for Host Hospitals for the Bassett Fellowship Program. This esteemed program offers advanced training in neurosurgery for young neurosurgeons, allowing them to gain hands-on experience and expand their expertise. We encourage interested hospitals to seize this opportunity and help shape the future of neurosurgical education.

We invite you to join us in supporting our mission through our [spring appeal](#). Your generous contributions enable us to continue our efforts in providing affordable and accessible neurosurgical education to regions in need. Together, we can make a difference and improve the quality of neurosurgical care worldwide.

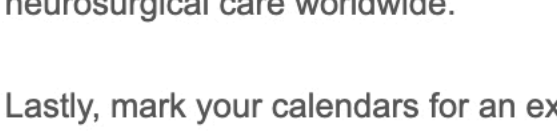
Lastly, mark your calendars for an exciting event on the horizon – the upcoming Virtual Visiting Professor Webinar. This webinar promises to be a valuable educational experience, featuring renowned experts who will share their knowledge and insights with a global audience. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to save the date!

We hope you enjoy reading the Spring Newsletter and find inspiration in the remarkable achievements of our members and fellows. The progress we make together will shape the future of neurosurgery and improve the lives of countless patients around the world. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared mission.

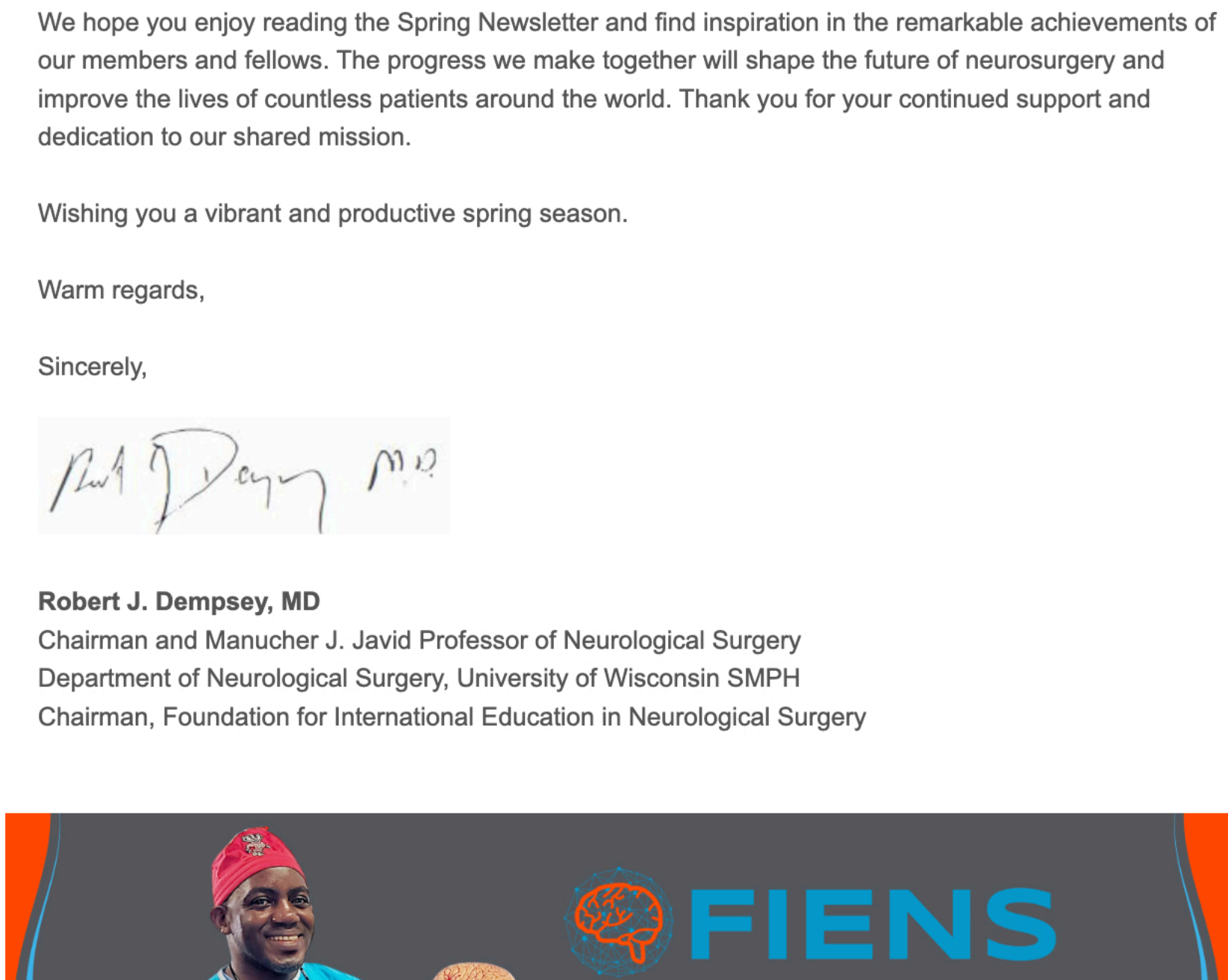
Wishing you a vibrant and productive spring season.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,



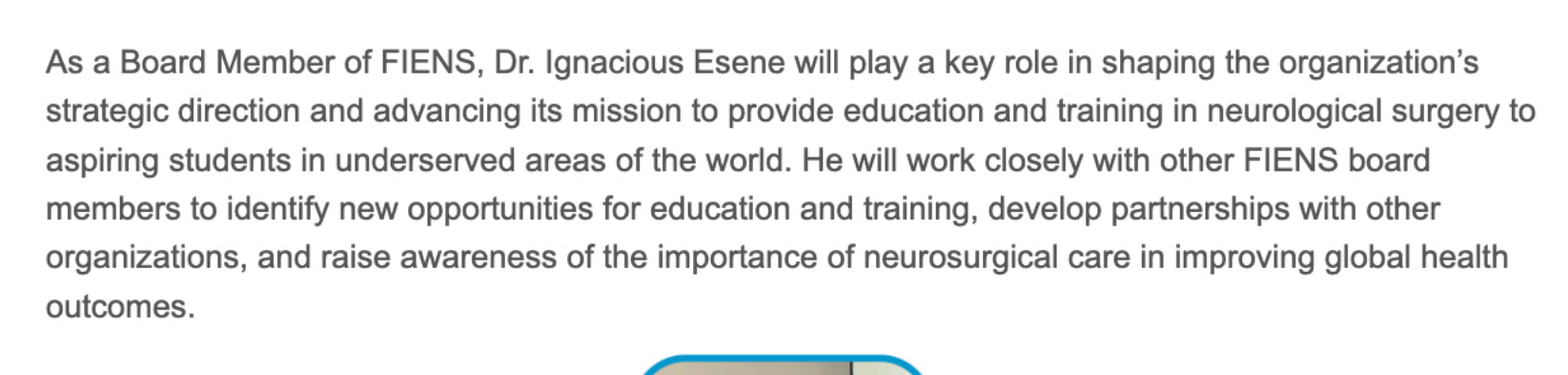
Robert J. Dempsey, MD
Chairman and Manucher J. Javid Professor of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Wisconsin SMPH
Chairman, Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery



The Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Ignacious Esene to its Board of Directors.

Dr. Esene is a highly respected neurosurgeon from Cameroon. He graduated from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon and has completed extensive training and surgical fellowships in Europe and North America, including the prestigious FIENS Bassett Fellowship. Dr. Esene has also been actively involved in teaching and mentoring neurosurgery residents in Cameroon and has been instrumental in developing neurosurgical programs in several African countries.

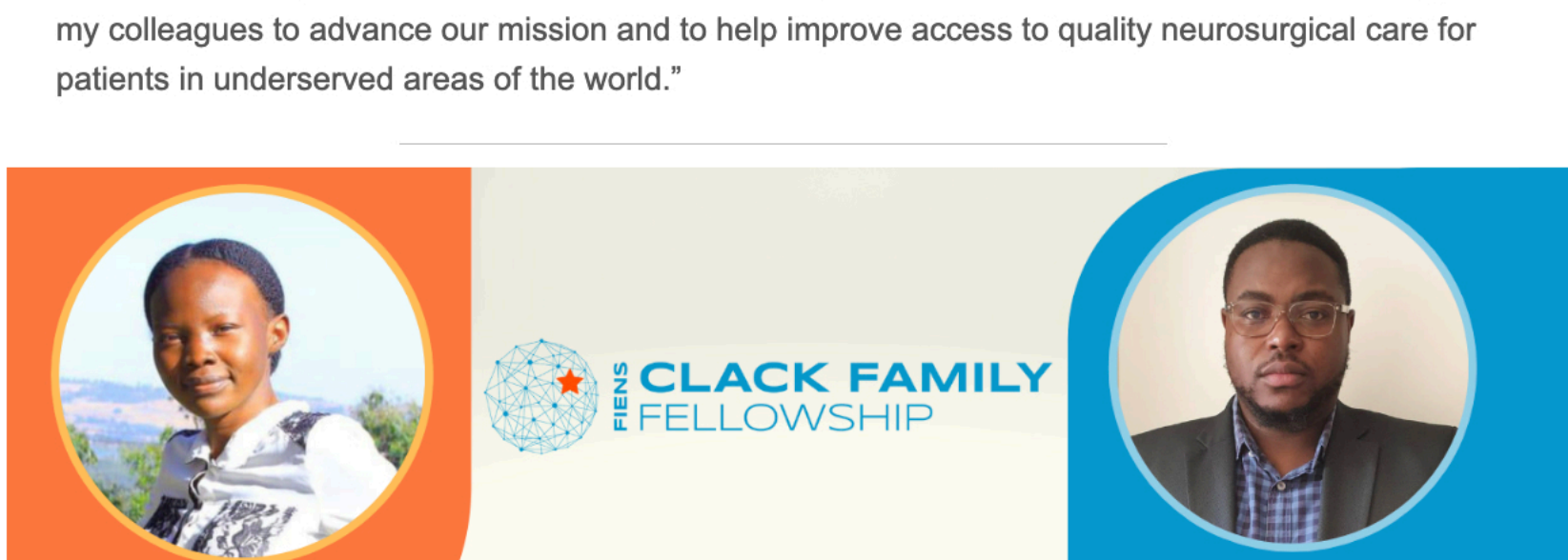
As a Board Member of FIENS, Dr. Ignacious Esene will play a key role in shaping the organization's strategic direction and advancing its mission to provide education and training in neurological surgery to aspiring students in underserved areas of the world. He will work closely with other FIENS board members to identify new opportunities for education and training, develop partnerships with other organizations, and raise awareness of the importance of neurosurgical care in improving global health outcomes.



"The young neurosurgeons and past FIENS fellows are the future of neurosurgery. FIENS' responsibilities extend into the postgraduate period for these people, who will also make up the future of the Foundation for International Education in Neurosurgery. It is a joy to have the passion, energy, and purpose that Dr. Esene brings to this role as a part of FIENS," said Dr. Robert Dempsey, Chairman of FIENS.

He will also lead a new committee designated to support young neurosurgeons and FIENS Bassett and FIENS Clack fellow alumni. The committee is born from the organization's desire to build deep, long-term connections with its alumni fellows and young neurosurgeons worldwide. These connections will support new and practicing surgeons as they build neurosurgical infrastructure in their home countries.

"I am honored to join the Board of Directors of FIENS," said Dr. Esene. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance our mission and to help improve access to quality neurosurgical care for patients in underserved areas of the world."



Congratulations to the two new Clack Family Fellows Dr. Winny Costa Mapuur and Dr. Bakang Abiot Kgaodi. As the 2023 Clack Family Fellowship awardees, they will receive funds to continue their neurosurgical education in their home countries.

Dr. Winny Mapuur is an aspiring neurosurgeon from South Sudan, the world's youngest country located in East Africa, with a population of about 10 million people without a practicing neurosurgeon. She is in her fourth year neurosurgery residency in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at Addis Ababa University. Dr. Mapuur's program director is Dr. Nebyou Syoum.

Dr. Bakang Abiot Kgaodi is currently in his fourth year of training at the University of Cape Town, College of Neurosurgeons of South Africa under program director Dr. Graham Fieggen. Dr. Fieggen describes Dr. Kgaodi as of the hardest-working, most dedicated, committed and reliable trainees he has ever had in the program. He noted that Dr. Kgaodi has already completed his dissertation ahead of taking his final exams; a remarkable and unusual achievement within the program.

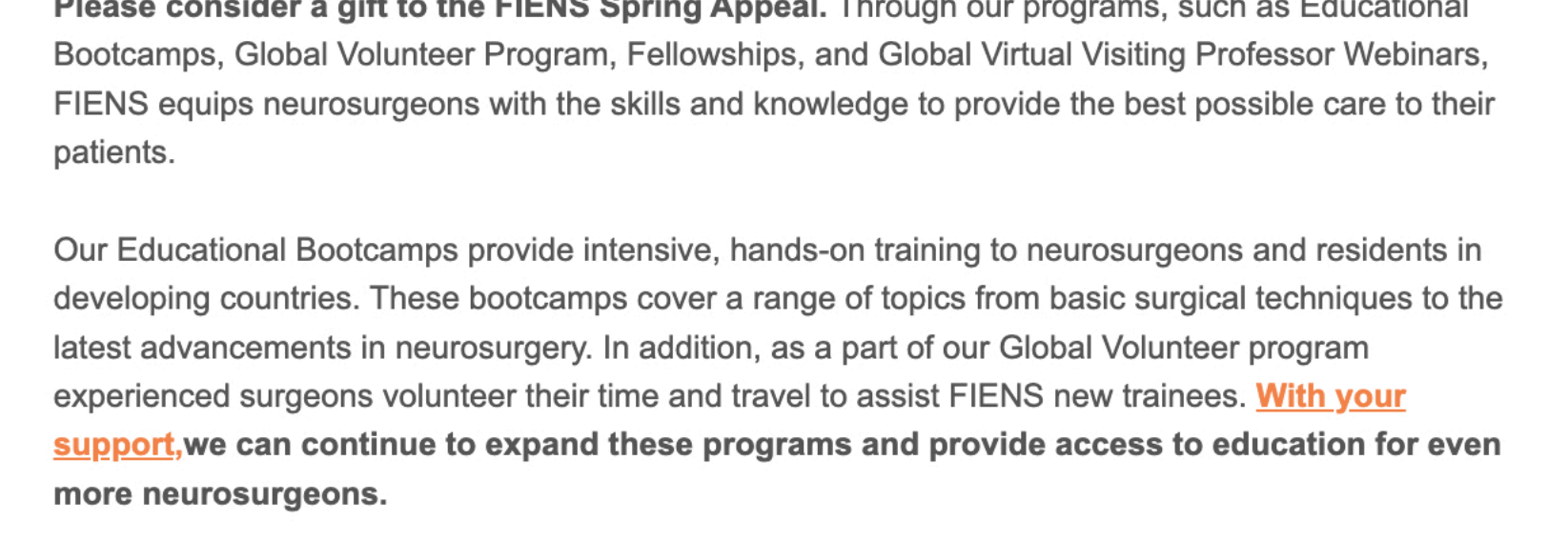
We look forward to sharing updates on the progress of these ambitious neurosurgeons who will save the lives of many in Botswana and South Sudan and inspire other practitioners to pursue neurosurgical education pathways.



The FIENS/BASSETT FELLOWSHIP provides a traveling opportunity to neurosurgeons who, at the time of their application, are either training in a residency program in a low-or-middle income country or who have completed residency training in a low-or-middle income country within the past five years.

The fellowship covers the 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.

FIENS could not provide international fellowships for aspiring neurosurgeons without the help of host hospitals and neurosurgeons. If you are able to act as a host at your institution/hospital, please send us an [email](#) with BASSETT HOST in the subject line. Thank you for considering hosting and mentoring a future neurosurgeon!



Please consider a gift to the FIENS Spring Appeal. Through our programs, such as Educational Bootcamps, Global Volunteer Program, Fellowships, and Global Virtual Visiting Professor Webinars, FIENS equips neurosurgeons with the skills and knowledge to provide the best possible care to their patients.

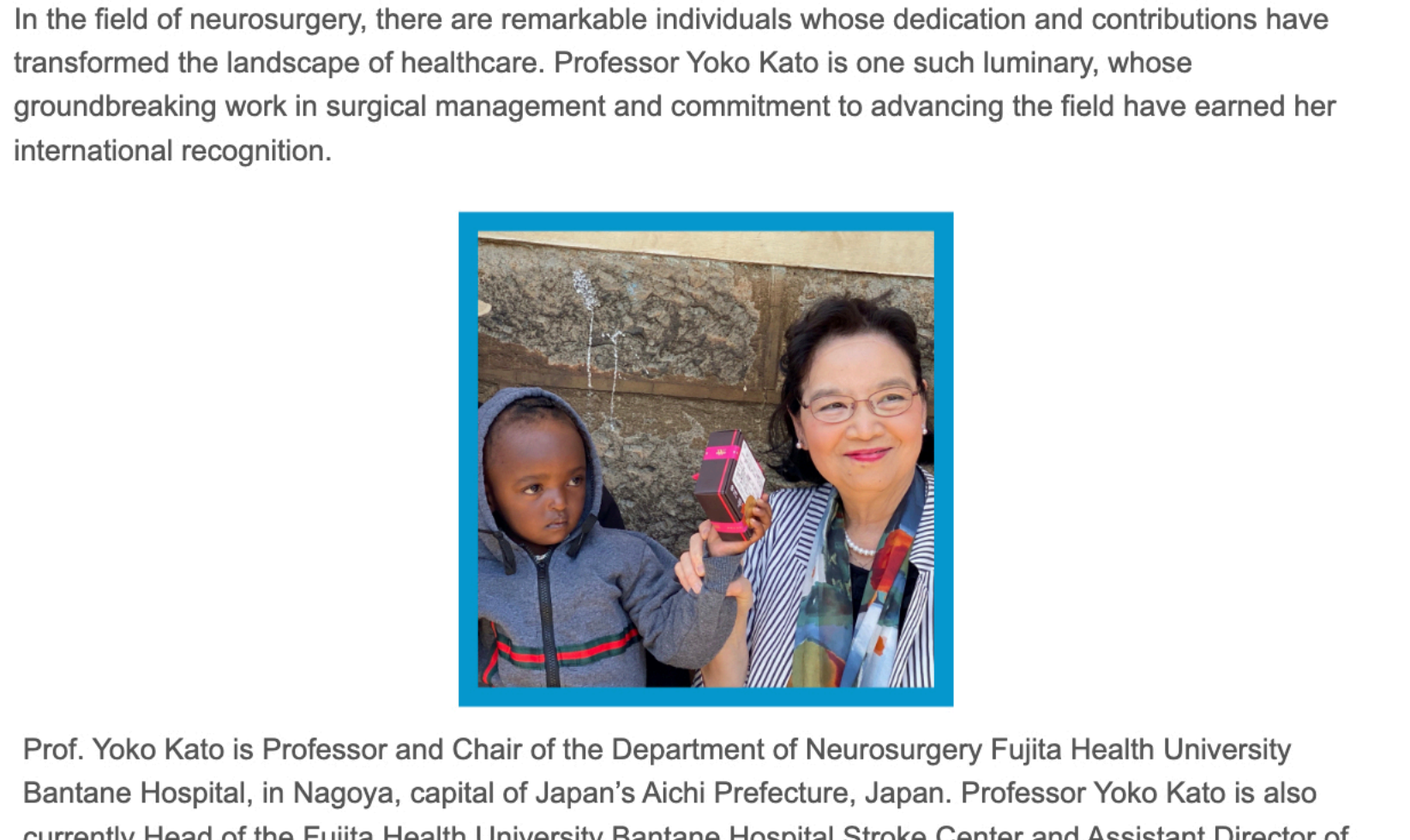
Our Educational Bootcamps provide intensive, hands-on training to neurosurgeons and residents in developing countries. These bootcamps cover a range of topics from basic surgical techniques to the latest advancements in neurosurgery. In addition, as a part of our Global Volunteer program experienced surgeons volunteer their time and travel to assist FIENS new trainees. **With your support, we can continue to expand these programs and provide access to education for even more neurosurgeons.**

Our Fellowships offer the opportunity for neurosurgeons to train with leading experts in the field at renowned institutions around the world. These fellowships allow for the exchange of knowledge and expertise, which can be applied to patient care back in their home countries.

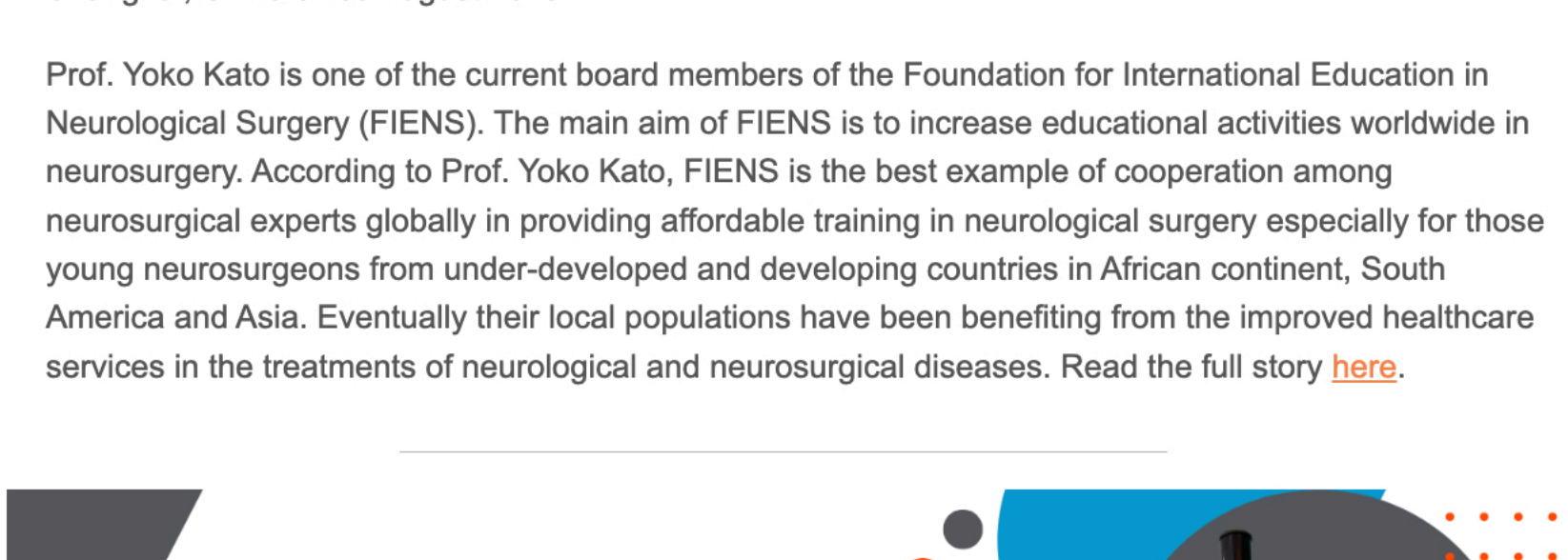
DONATE

Finally, our Global Virtual Visiting Professor Webinars provide a platform for neurosurgeons to connect with experts from around the world and learn from their experiences. These webinars allow for collaboration and knowledge-sharing which ultimately leads to better patient outcomes.

However, none of these programs are possible without the generosity of donors like you. Your donation directly supports our mission to improve patient care through education and training.



In the field of neurosurgery, there are remarkable individuals whose dedication and contributions have transformed the landscape of healthcare. Professor Yoko Kato is one such luminary, whose groundbreaking work in surgical management and commitment to advancing the field have earned her international recognition.



Prof. Yoko Kato is Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery Fujita Health University Bantane Hospital, in Nagoya, capital of Japan's Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Professor Yoko Kato is also currently Head of the Fujita Health University Bantane Hospital Stroke Center and Assistant Director of the Fujita Health University Bantane Hospital. Other positions she has held include Executive Board Member of WFNS Foundation, Chair of the WFNS International Initiative Coordinate committee, President of the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ACNS), Chair of the International Initiative Coordinate committee, Editor in Chief of the Asian Journal of Neurosurgery (AJNS) and Executive board member of The Japan Neurosurgical Society.

She has been appointed as distinguished Professor of the Department of Neurosurgery Renji Hospital, Shanghai, China since August 2019.

Prof. Yoko Kato is one of the current board members of the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS). The main aim of FIENS is to increase educational activities worldwide in neurosurgery. According to Prof. Yoko Kato, FIENS is the best example of cooperation among neurosurgical experts globally in providing affordable training in neurological surgery especially for those young neurosurgeons from under-developed and developing countries in African continent, South America and Asia. Eventually their local populations have been benefiting from the improved healthcare services in the treatments of neurological and neurosurgical diseases. Read the full story [here](#).



FIENS member Abdullah Kales, MD is part of a new initiative called the Madison Microneurosurgery Initiative. The Madison Microneurosurgery Initiative (MMI) was founded in the Baskaya Lab in February 2020 in Madison, Wisconsin.

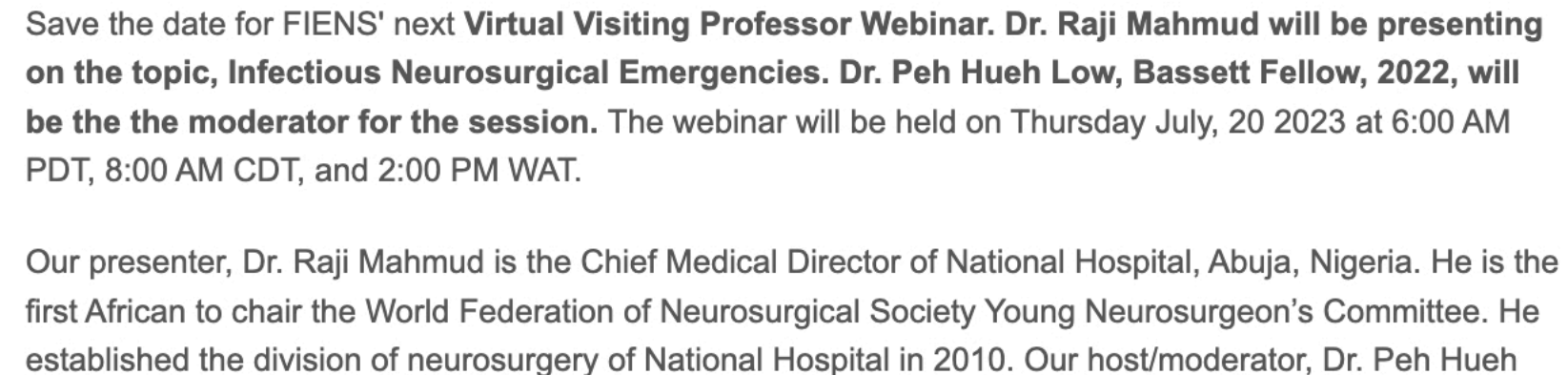
Since most non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focus on primary care, the need for microneurosurgery is typically not addressed. The Initiatives' objective is to address this gap by providing basic, accessible, and sustainable microneurosurgical training for medical professionals from LMICs in their home countries.

MMI's mission is to support and initiate microneurosurgery skills training in LMICs by enabling training with equipment and facilities that are inexpensive and accessible. These microneurosurgery skills training facilities use inexpensive stereo microscopes, basic sets of macro and micro surgical instruments, training materials, and training exercises. This provides a solution to disseminate microneurosurgery training to countries with the greatest need.

You may read more about the initiative [here](#).



On Saturday, April 22, 2023, FIENS held a hybrid virtual/in-person board meeting in between sessions at the AANS2023, Neurosurgeons as Advocates Conference in Los Angeles. A few members of the Ohana One team stopped in for an in-person hello during the meeting.



L to R: Dr. Robert Dempsey, Chair of FIENS, Board Members, Dr. Sarah Woodrow, Dr. Mojgan Hodaie, Dr. Walter Johnson (missing: Dr. Brandon Rocque)

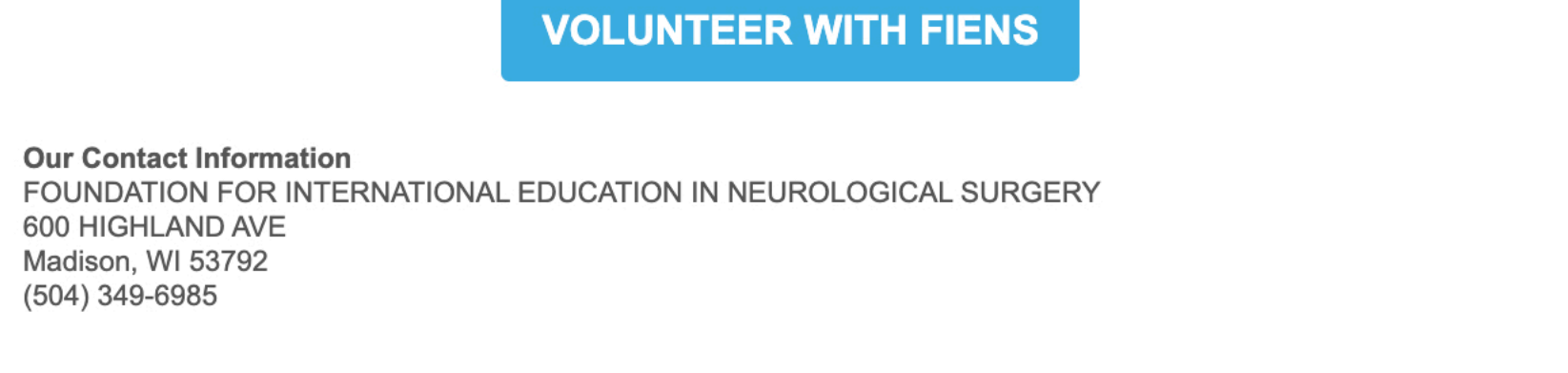


L to R: Marcella Sellers, Executive Director, Ohana One; Dr. Robert Dempsey, Chair of FIENS; Jeanne Bray, Ohana One

Save the date for FIENS' next Virtual Visiting Professor Webinar. **Dr. Raji Mahmud will be presenting on the topic, Infectious Neurosurgical Emergencies. Dr. Peh Hueh Low, Bassett Fellow, 2022, will be the moderator for the session.** The webinar will be held on Thursday July, 20 2023 at 6:00 AM PDT, 8:00 AM CDT, and 2:00 PM WAT.

Our presenter, Dr. Raji Mahmud is the Chief Medical Director of National Hospital, Abuja, Nigeria. He is the first African to chair the World Federation of Neurological Society Young Neurosurgeon's Committee. He established the division of neurosurgery of National Hospital in 2010. Our host/moderator, Dr. Peh Hueh Low is a recent FIENS Bassett Fellow from Malaysia.

We will provide further information on this upcoming webinar soon.



Are you interested in volunteering with FIENS? The Volunteer Program is based on the principle of volunteerism where individuals volunteer to participate in activities of various local host programs (the "Host Program") for a minimum of two weeks. Volunteers in the Program further the development and improvement of neurosurgical training programs worldwide by assisting local faculty members, by cooperating in the neurological education in medical schools, and by assisting in neurosurgery training programs and graduation education courses. To learn more please click [here](#).

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

VOLUNTEER WITH FIENS

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