The Sub-Saharan Africa Neuro-oncology Collaborative (S-SANOC) planning meeting which took place at the Tower Hotel, London, United Kingdom in October 2017 formed the foundation for the birth of the Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA). The meeting was organized through the collaborative efforts of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA), and the Zimbabwe Brain Tumour Association (ZBTA), in association with Mark Bernstein, the Greg Wilkins-Barrick Chair of International Surgery at the University Health Network, University of Toronto, Canada. There were 40 participants from 16 countries with good representation across sub-Saharan Africa.

The meeting was primarily set up to give groups that had applied for the right to host a state-of-the-art symposium or educational course in sub-Saharan Africa in 2018 the opportunity to present their proposals. However, with the presence of representatives from almost all clinical sub-specialties that deal with brain tumours together with brain tumour patient advocates from sub-Saharan Africa, the meeting provided the needed environment for a multi-stakeholder engagement to facilitate a sub-Saharan African neuro-oncology society that hopes to take a leadership role in coordinating efforts to improve patient care in the region.

The meeting resulted in a general consensus by the participants about the necessity for a neuro-oncology society whose membership will include patient advocates. A steering committee was put in place to facilitate a course to be hosted at the first annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA) in Abuja, Nigeria.

**SNOSSA’s first conference**

The first conference of SNOSSA was held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on 22 and 23 July 2018. The meeting was attended by delegates from sub-Saharan African countries as well as speakers drawn from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, India and Greece. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore the neuro-oncology landscape in the region, with insight into CNS tumour
epidemiology, as well as the challenges faced by those who practice across sub-specialties and countries. Speakers also shared perspectives about practices in other low and middle income countries such as India, as well as from high-income countries.

A session on patient advocacy brought the issues of collaboration between physicians and patient advocates to the fore. These include the need for increased listening and empathy by providers, and the need to document the available neuro-oncology capacity in sub-Saharan Africa to facilitate access to services. The meeting also gave the participants the opportunity to discuss education, research and collaboration within and outside Africa. The meeting culminated in the adoption of a constitution for SNOSSA, the election of a substantive executive council, setting up of a board of trustees and the awarding of the hosting rights for the 2019 SNOSSA meeting to Cape Town, South Africa.

SNOSSA’s collaborative efforts
SNOSSA continues to partner with sister organizations such as the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO) and the Society for Neuro-Oncology Latin America (SNOLA) as well as the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA).

Discussions for definite collaboration are ongoing with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). SNOSSA is also looking to partner with the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) to facilitate a session for CNS tumours at the organization’s 12th annual conference in Maputo, Mozambique in November 2019. We are also working with SNO to develop and launch a web-based database of neuro-oncology professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. We are seeking to build and maintain relationships with allied health care providers, patient advocates/patient advocacy organizations and members of the African diaspora in the field of neuro-oncology who do some work on or visit the continent. We are hopeful that these collaborations will make the engagements of SNOSSA towards advocating and providing greater care for neuro-oncology patients more robust, in addition to the membership drive across the continent.

The second annual meeting of SNOSSA in Cape Town, South Africa
The second annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (http://www.snossa.org/) will be hosted in conjunction with the South African Paediatric Brain Tumour Workshop (PBIIW) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) on 7th and 8th August 2019.

The meeting will be held at UCT’s Faculty of Health Science at the Wolfson Pavilion. It will run concurrently with pre-conference workshops of the South African Congress of Oncology (https://www.saco2019.co.za). In addition, the Society of Neurosurgeons of South Africa (SNSA- https://www.snsa.co.za) will host a meeting with the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) in Cape Town over the same weekend. The philosophy of the SNOSSA conference is to present multi-disciplinary issues in pediatric and adult neuro-oncology in a thematic and integrated fashion.

We will have a world class faculty from across the globe. Keynote lectures will be given by neurosurgeon Dr Frederick Lang on awake surgery and intra operative mapping. Dr Rakesh Jalali will discuss implementing state of the art neuro-oncology in the low-and-middle-income-countries (LMIC) setting. Dr Patrick Wen will deliver the

The first SNOSSA conference in Abuja, Nigeria was a great springboard for neuro-oncology activity in sub-Saharan Africa. Here are just a few photographs of the event in July 2018 which saw healthcare professionals and patient advocates working together to improve outcomes for people with brain tumours and their families in Africa.
The Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA) arose after a meeting in London in October 2017 which brought together a range of stakeholders focusing on the care and support of people with brain tumours living south of the Sahara on the African continent.

Thirty-three participants from 16 countries attended the 2017 Sub-Saharan Africa Neuro-Oncology Collaborative (S-SANOC) meeting in London. The meeting was run by the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA) in conjunction with the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO); the Zimbabwe Brain Tumour Association (ZBTA); Dr Mark Bernstein (the Greg Wilkins-Barrick Chair in International Surgery, University of Toronto, Canada); and the SNO Wilkins-Barrick Course in Neuro-Oncology.

Once SNOSSA had formed after the 2017 London meeting, the first SNOSSA conference in Abuja, Nigeria was an event that brought great minds together to ponder on the achievements made so far and the way forward for brain tumour care. Improving the quality of care while equally advocating for people suffering from brain tumours was a key note of this meeting.

SNOSSA’s goal is: Working together, improving outcomes and sustaining hope for adult and pediatric brain tumour patients in central, south, east and west Africa.

For further details on the SNOSSA 2019 conference in Cape Town, South Africa, please visit http://btw.brainchild.org.za/