Dear Friends,

Our 7th Annual Neurosurgery, Neurotrauma, and Critical Care Course was nothing like the previous editions. This year’s course was hosted on Zoom, simulcast on YouTube, and live streamed around the world in real time. It was a singular accomplishment that required faculty members and tech support on multiple continents over the course of three Sundays. But what an accomplishment it was, with dozens of presenters and more than 700 registrants eager to hear from global experts on topics of critical importance. The course covered surgical protocols for those with brain and spine trauma as well as research initiatives that support data-driven care. Using a combination of lectures, case presentations, and interactive Q&A sessions, the course, which was endorsed by AOSpine, NASS, FIENS, and COSECSA, set a new standard for global education in neurosurgery and neurotrauma.

The Value of Data in Managing Traumatic Brain Injury Patients
The course opened on November 8 with a robust series of lectures discussing how data and informatics influence the needs, performance, and effectiveness of medical care. Faculty members presented cases from around the world for in-depth discussions on how best to manage brain trauma patients in low-resource settings. Far left: Dr. Hamisi Shabani of the Muhimili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) opened the course with “The Peshawar Declaration: Policy-Making Across Continents;” near left, Dr. Halinder Mangat of Weill Cornell Medicine weighs in on a case discussion.

Managing Spinal Trauma in a Resource-Limited Setting
The second session, on November 15, focused on pragmatic research and management of spinal trauma patients, also with case presentations for review and discussion. Far left, I presented an overview of our program in Tanzania, which focuses on training surgeons to provide care using locally available resources, as a model for sustainable programs; near left, Dr. Jake Timothy, from the U.K., presented his experiences and observations in treating spine trauma and training spine surgeons in low- and middle-income countries. This session also featured interactive case presentations and discussions.

How to Succeed at International Research Collaborations
The third and final day of the course, on November 22, covered international research collaborations, from what it takes to get started to what steps should be taken to ensure long-term success. Speakers reviewed examples from a range of countries. Far left, Dr. Gail Rousseau of Weill Cornell Medicine reviewed the evolution of global neurosurgery; near left, Dr. Rikin Trivedi presented on his experiences in Zambia.

The three days of the course are available for viewing on our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/BrainSpineCenter

Keep up with our work by visiting us on Facebook or at weillcornellbrainandspine.org/tanzania