

Conference Connection

Mark your calendars for the AANN 41st Annual Educational Meeting

Leadership and Community: Investing Today in the Neuroscience Nursing of Tomorrow

March 28–31, 2009

Rio All Suites Casino Resort

Las Vegas, NV

The Annual Meeting is the premier educational event for neuroscience nurses and allied health professionals and features

- presentations by neuroscience nursing experts
- opportunities to learn about the latest treatment options, techniques, trends, and best practices
- pharmacology credit available via concurrent sessions and workshops
- content to meet the educational needs of novice and advanced practice nurses.

Other events include

- Exhibit Hall showcasing numerous exhibitors
- networking and social events

2009 Conference Site

Rio All Suites Casino Resort, Las Vegas

Room rate: \$199/single or double

Room Reservations: 888/746-6955

You won't want to miss the Agnes M. Marshall Keynote Address, "**The Central Park Jogger: The TBI Survivor's Perspective on Healing to Wholeness**" 8–9:30 am on Sunday, March 29, 2009. For years, Trisha Meili was known to the world as The Central Park Jogger. Her amazing story of survival and recovery is not one of an attack, but rather, one of healing.

Preview of Annual Meeting Speakers

The 2009 AANN Annual Meeting offers valuable educational opportunities for neuroscience nurses and allied health professionals. Here is a preview of speakers scheduled for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

Agnes M. Marshall Keynote Address

The Central Park Jogger: A TBI Survivor's Perspective on Healing to Wholeness

Trisha Meili, MA MBA

Ms. Meili will share lessons of healing from her journey of recovery that allowed her to move beyond being a victim, reclaim her life, and become whole. She will provide the audience with a patient's perspective of the non-clinical aspects of recovery, or the "art" of recovery. This

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includes care, support, hope, and trust. Ms. Meili will discuss the possibility of attaining a full life despite the restrictive parameters of a traumatic brain injury.

NNF Special Lecture

Brain Tumor Research: State of the Science

Terri Armstrong, PhD ANP BC; Dr. Mark Gilbert, MD

There have been several advances in the treatment of malignant brain tumors. First, molecular characterization of tumor samples has uncovered distinct subcategories of tumors that may translate into more specific treatments. Second, a recent study has demonstrated a clear survival benefit for chemotherapy for patients with glioblastoma. This has led to an increase in international collaborations to build on this treatment advance. Third, recent studies have demonstrated a potential clinical benefit to the use of agents that block angiogenesis (new blood vessel formation) in malignant gliomas. Along with these advances has been the recognition that patients' functional status, symptoms, and quality of life affect the tolerance of treatment and are important secondary endpoints in the evaluation of new therapies. Measurement of these endpoints may include assessment of neurocognitive function or use of self-report questionnaires pertaining to quality of life and the occurrence of symptoms (referred to as patient reported outcomes or PROs). These recent discoveries coupled with the recognition of the importance of understanding the impact from the patient perspective has opened a new area of both laboratory and clinical investigations, providing increasing hope that significant advances in treatment will be forthcoming over the next several years.

Plenary Session

Stroke: It's Not Just An Old Person's Disease

Leean Hendrix

On a Saturday in July 2002, when she was only 26, Leean Hendrix's vision suddenly became blurry and her body veered toward the wall when she walked. With great effort, she reached the bathroom of her apartment and then gasped at the unfamiliar face in the mirror. Unfortunately, the emergency room doctors "made a collective decision not to test me for stroke," says Hendrix, "because I was young, they thought I was on drugs and left me alone on a gurney for 6 hours." Hendrix is a survivor with a clear message that stroke is the number-three cause of death among women in the United States and is a leading cause of long-term disability. Hendrix resides in Phoenix, AZ and speaks professionally through Speakers on Healthcare.