



## CEO CORNER

*Another challenging, yet successful year for Accurate NeuroMonitoring...*

Throughout 2019, we faced increased pressure from insurance carriers, elevated hospital and Joint Commission scrutiny, and numerous surgeon-owned business models whose questionable ethics created an unlevel playing field. Nonetheless, we continued to thrive. We participated in nearly 15,000 surgeries and achieved significant regional expansion, resulting in double digit growth for the 12th consecutive year. We are very proud of our entire staff and their unique ability to adapt to the everchanging IONM climate. Thanks to our dedicated team of highly skilled professionals, we continue to provide unparalleled patient care and customer service with integrity.

## COMPANY NEWS

### New employees

**Technologists:**

- Satin Bibbs – FL

**Administrative:**

- Jordan Nichols – Northeast billing team
- Brian Diaz – Northeast billing team

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

### Utilization of MEPs During Posterior Lumbar Procedures to Diagnose and Avoid 'Foot Drop' Dorsiflexion Injuries

Foot Drop can occur during posterior lumbar fusions, but unfortunately the IONM modalities typically used during these procedures (spontaneous EMG and posterior tibial nerve SSEPs) have been historically very poor in diagnosing the injury. But, there is GOOD NEWS! There are two papers from 'The Spine Journal' in 2019 (Wilent et al, Lieberman et al) and one from 'Spine' (Tamkus et al) in 2018 that focus on the ability of MEPs to accurately diagnose foot drop dorsiflexion injuries. Click on the link below to review the 5 key points from these papers as summarized in a blog from the American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## MISSION TRIPS

### Accurate NeuroMonitoring Sponsors Third Mission Trip to India

For the third consecutive year, Accurate NeuroMonitoring is supplying IONM services and equipment in support of the "Bal Shalya Kriya" Mission in Nagpur, India which helps children with severe deformities who cannot afford medical care.

At the request of Dr. David Anteketer, a spinal deformity surgeon from the Hughston Clinic in Columbus, GA, we are sending Nicole Antman, CNIM to provide neuromonitoring services to help correct severe spinal anomalies during complex surgeries. Last year, critical alerts in two of the eight surgeries resulted in surgical adaptations which restored the neuromonitoring data. All eight children came out of surgery with marked improvement in their condition and no new neurological deficits.



Nicole Antman, CNIM

This year, between February 20-24th, Dr. Anteketer's team anticipates performing 25 spinal deformity corrections. We are proud to once again support of this noble mission.

### Accurate NeuroMonitoring Supports Mission in Dominican Republic

Accurate NeuroMonitoring is sponsoring another mission trip, this time in Santo Domingo, at the request of Dr. Samuel Joseph Jr., a Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon from the Joseph Spine Institute in Tampa, Florida. We will be providing IONM services and equipment to support World Spine Outreach, an organization established in 2008, which provides advanced orthopedic spinal and neurological medicine to young adults in disadvantaged communities who have little or no access to this level of technology or trained medical personnel.

The mission anticipates performing 20-25 surgeries to correct severe spinal deformities during the week of Feb. 10-14, and Fabian Vazquez, CNIM will be going on this mission on behalf of Accurate NeuroMonitoring.



Fabian Vazquez, CNIM

For these children this is a lifesaving surgery, which gives them the opportunity for a normal and productive life, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of it.



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Which evoked potential produces lowest amplitude responses, therefore having recordings most susceptible to artifact interference?
  - SSEP
  - TcMEP
  - BAER
  - All have the same response amplitudes
- BAER responses from stimulation of the ipsilateral ear to the side of brainstem surgery best provide information about the function of cranial nerve VIII, while responses from stimulation of the contralateral ear best provide information about the function of the lateral lemniscus and the brainstem itself.
  - True
  - False
- An arteriovenous malformation (AVM) can be present in the brain or spine. When ruptured it causes bleeding and poses serious threat to the central nervous system functioning. An AVM is:
  - Thinning and bulging of an artery and vein walls
  - A bundle of arteries and veins abnormally connected
  - A sprouting of arteries and veins around an obstructed artery
  - A direct connection between one artery and one vein
- TCMEP can be used intraoperatively to monitor all of the following except:
  - Corticobulbar pathways
  - Anterior spinal cord
  - Posterior cerebral perfusion
  - Nerve roots
- The artery of Adamkiewicz is a relevant vascular structure for NeuroMonitoring because it perfuses \_\_\_\_\_ and its infarction causes \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The thoracolumbar spine; paraplegia
  - The cerebellum; loss of fine motor skills
  - The brain stem; paraplegia
  - The brain when the carotid is clamped; loss of SSEP

Answers: 1. C | 2. A | 3. B | 4. C | 5. A