

THINK TANK MEETING 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026
SAN ANTONIO, TX & VIRTUAL*

San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter on the River Walk
Room: Pearl 1

101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

Virtual access available upon request

2026 AGENDA

The challenging case presentation session will feature discussion about active clinical cases. For privacy/security reasons, this session will not be available virtually. Please contact Kaitlyn (kesposito@bobbyjonescsf.org) with questions or for access to the Zoom meeting.

7:30 AM	Breakfast (30 mins)
8:00 AM	Welcome & Introductions
MORNING SESSION I: CHALLENGING CASE DISCUSSIONS	
8:15 AM	Challenging Case Session (Closed-Door Session) Moderator: Jeffrey P. Greenfield, MD, PhD
MORNING SESSION II: CLINICAL PREDICTORS & DIAGNOSTIC METRICS	
9:15 AM	Preoperative acetazolamide response as possible predictor of postoperative headache outcomes in pediatric Chiari Kerrin Sunshine, MD
9:40 AM	Validation of fourth ventricle roof angle as a measure of brainstem dysfunction in pediatric Chiari malformation type I Brandon G. Rocque, MD
10:05 AM	No increased incidence of tethered cord syndrome or low-lying conus in pediatric Chiari type I Cormac O. Maher, MD
10:30 AM	Break (10 mins)
MORNING SESSION III: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY & GENETIC LANDSCAPES	
10:40 AM	Surgical Treatment of Chiari Malformation: Insights from a Large Academic Medical Center Eric M. Jackson, MD
11:05 AM	Chiari I Genomics Kristopher Kahle, MD
11:30 AM	CCRC: Next Steps & Round Table Discussion & any BJCSF SEAB Business
11:55 AM	Lunch (60 mins)
AFTERNOON SESSION I: ADVANCING THE FIELD	
12:55 PM	Understanding the Gene Expression Profile of the Posterior Atlanto-occipital Membrane in Children with Chiari I and Control Patients Elena Kurudza, MD
1:20 PM	Using AI to Predict Post-surgical Headache Improvement for Chiari I and Syringomyelia Ziqi Xu, Ph.D. Candidate
1:45 PM	In Vivo-Informed CFD Suggests a New Mechanism for Syringomyelia Development in Chiari I Malformation Antonio L. Sanchez, PhD
2:10 PM	Tailoring the Surgical Approach to Chiari I Malformation with Intraoperative Ultrasounds: Advantages, Limitations, and Controversies Paolo Frassanito, MD, PhD
2:35 PM	Break (10 mins)
AFTERNOON SESSION II: WORKING MEETINGS	
2:45 PM	Chiari Research Interest Group Meeting
3:25 PM	Chiari Surgical Success Scale Meeting
4:00 PM	Meeting Concludes

2026 AGENDA

The purpose of the BJCSF Think Tank is to disseminate recently published research and to discuss its therapeutic and clinical implications for pediatric and adult patients with Chiari, syringomyelia and related disorders. Participants are encouraged to share, discuss and make connections.

7:30 AM

Breakfast

8:00 AM

Welcome & Introductions

MORNING SESSION I CHALLENGING CASE PRESENTATIONS

8:15 AM

Challenging Case Presentations & Discussions

Moderator: Jeffrey P. Greenfield, M.D., Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical Center | Neurosurgery
New York, New York, USA

MORNING SESSION II DIAGNOSTIC METRICS & CLINICAL PREDICTORS

9:15 AM

Preoperative acetazolamide response as possible predictor of postoperative headache outcomes in pediatric Chiari

Kerrin Sunshine, M.D.

Case Western Reserve Univ./Univ. Hospitals | Neurosurgery
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

9:40 AM

Validation of fourth ventricle roof angle as a measure of brainstem dysfunction in pediatric Chiari malformation type I

Brandon G. Rocque, M.D.

University of Alabama Birmingham | Neurosurgery
Birmingham, Alabama, USA

10:05 AM

No increased incidence of tethered cord syndrome or low-lying conus in pediatric Chiari malformation type I

Cormac O. Maher, M.D.

Stanford University | Neurosurgery
Palo Alto, California, USA

10:30 AM

Break (10 mins)

2025 AGENDA

MORNING SESSION III NEW DIRECTIONS: PART 1

10:40 AM

Surgical Treatment of Chiari Malformation: Insights from a Large Academic Medical Center

Eric M. Jackson, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University | Neurosurgery
Baltimore, Maryland, USA

11:05 AM

Chiari I Genomics

Kristopher Kahle, M.D., Ph.D.

Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts Gen. | Neurosurgery
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

11:30 AM

SEAB Business & CCRC

Round Table Discussion & New Directions

11:55 AM

Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION I NEW DIRECTIONS: PART 2

12:55 PM

Understanding the Gene Expression Profile of the Posterior Atlanto-occipital Membrane in Children with Chiari I and Control Patients

Elena Kurudza, M.D.

University of Utah | Neurosurgery
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

1:20 PM

Using AI to Predict Post-surgical Headache Improvement for Chiari I and Syringomyelia

Ziqi Xu, Ph.D. Candidate

Washington University St. Louis | Computer Sci. & Engineering
St. Louis, Missouri, USA

2025 AGENDA

AFTERNOON SESSION I NEW DIRECTIONS: PART 2

1:45 PM

***In Vivo*-Informed CFD Suggests a New Mechanism for Syringomyelia Development in Chiari I Malformation**

Antonio L. Sanchez, Ph.D.

Univ. of California San Diego | Mech/Aerosp. Engineering
San Diego, California, USA

2:10 PM

Tailoring the Surgical Approach to Chiari I with Intraoperative Ultrasounds: Advantages, Limitations, & Controversies

Paolo Frassanito, M.D., Ph.D.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore | Neurosurgery
Rome, Italy

2:35 PM

Break (10 mins)

AFTERNOON SESSION II WORKING MEETINGS

2:45 PM

Chiari Research Interest Group

3:25 PM

Chiari Surgical Success Scale Investigator Meeting