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## **ANA Presidential Symposium to Spotlight Critical Work in Global Neurology**

***“Research to Improve Outcomes for the 'Bottom Billion”  
focuses on intersection of global poverty and neuroscience***

**(SAN DIEGO, CA, October 16, 2017)** — The American Neurological Association (ANA), the professional organization representing the nation’s top academic neurologists and neuroscientists, will present groundbreaking research today on strategies for delivering neurologic care in low-resource settings during “Research to Improve Outcomes for the 'Bottom Billion,”” the Presidential Symposium of the [ANA’s 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in San Diego on October 15-17](#).

“Through the “Bottom Billion” symposium, we hope to draw attention to the critical translational research that global neurologists are conducting to combat some of the world’s most devastating neurological diseases,” said Barbara G. Vickrey, MD, MPH, president of the ANA and professor and neurology system chair at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

“These breakthroughs—such as the use of mobile health technologies and deployment of community health workers—can also improve the delivery of neurologic care for uninsured and under-resourced populations in the U.S,” added Vickrey, chair and moderator of the Presidential Symposium. Serving as co-chairs are Farrah J. Mateen, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School; and Peter Kilmarx, MD, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health.

“Research to Improve Outcomes for the 'Bottom Billion”” will focus on the small but growing number of U.S. academic neurologists doing NIH-supported global neurology research. These scientists are working in remote areas of South America, Africa, and Asia to develop knowledge about neurologic diseases such as konzo and cerebral malaria that are rare in the United States but highly relevant in low- and middle-income countries worldwide.

Renowned academic neurologists participating in the Presidential Symposium and their topics include:

- **Desire Tshala-Katumbay, MD, PhD, FANA, Oregon Health & Science University and Kinshasa School of Medicine:** On the Causation and Prevention of Konzo – a Distinct Upper Motor Neuron Disease Associated with Food (Cassava) Cyanogenic Poisoning in Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Joseph Zunt, MD, MPH, University of Washington:** From Retroviruses to Herpesviruses and Beyond: Addressing CNS Infections and Global Health in Peru
- **Farrah Mateen, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School:** Unleashing the Power of Mobile Devices and Tele-Consultations for People Living with Epilepsy
- **Gretchen Birbeck, MD, MPH, DTMH, FAAN, University of Rochester:** Neuroprotective Studies in Cerebral Malaria: Can Africa’s Efforts Inform U.S. Neurology?

In addition, brief “Data Blitz” presentations will highlight additional findings including:

- **Jennifer Durringer, PhD, Oregon State University:** Nodding Syndrome: Multimycotoxin Case-Control Study in Northern Uganda
- **Bridgette Jeanne Billioux, MD, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke:** Longitudinal Cohort Study of Neurological Sequelae in Ebola Virus Disease Survivors in Liberia

Each year, the ANA Annual Meeting convenes more than 800 of the nation's top academic neurologists and neuroscientists to share updates and late-breaking research on the diseases that affect more than 100 million Americans each year including stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and more. Review the complete program [here](#).

### **About the American Neurological Association (ANA)**

Founded in 1875, the American Neurological Association is the premier professional society of academic neurologists and neuroscientists devoted to the understanding of diseases of the nervous system and the profession’s ability to treat them. Its monthly *Annals of Neurology*, first published in 1977, is one of the world’s most prestigious medical journals. *Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology*, the ANA’s newest publication, is a peer-reviewed online journal for rapid dissemination of high-quality research focused on topics of interest to the clinical neuroscience community. For more information, visit [www.myana.org](http://www.myana.org).

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