

# **News and Announcements – February 2025**

<u>Patient Education Event</u> – This is a free event, but you must register.

Saturday, March 29, 2025 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT UT Southwestern Dallas, TX

### Join the ANA Community – Become a Member Today!

Thousands of acoustic neuroma patients and caregivers understand the value of membership in the ANA. In return, we value our members by providing up-to-the-minute content, in-person support and educational programs, and access to our quality volunteers.

### **Update Your Information!**

Please take a moment to ensure we have your most up-to-date information, so you'll have access to critical resources.

# **Quarterly Newsletter, NOTES – December 2024**

- Medical Report, *Recurrence or Progression of VS*, By Franco DeMonte, MD, FRCS(C), FACS; Sophie Peeters, MD; Paul W. Gidley, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Medical Report, AN: When to Observe and When to Remove, By Zachary Schwam, MD; George Wanna, MD, Mount Sinai
- Patient Stories My CyberKnife Story, by Laura Fay and Walking and Dancing Strong Again, by Annie Lee Siswojo
- Patient Education Events It's Worth a Saturday, by Jim Shea, ANA CEO
- 2025 Patient Education Events Save the Dates

### **Information Booklets**

Booklets are free to ANA members. You can view the electronic version in the <u>Member Section</u> of the ANA website or <u>contact us</u> to request the print version. If you are not an ANA member, <u>join today</u> or <u>order</u> booklets online for a small fee.

Eye Care After Acoustic Neuroma Surgery

Facial Nerve and Acoustic Neuroma: Possible Damage and Rehabilitation

Headache Associated with acoustic Neuroma Treatment

Hearing Loss Rehabilitation for Acoustic Neuroma Patients

Improving Balance Associated with Acoustic Neuroma

Newly Diagnosed Handbook

Understanding Emotional, Cognitive and Behavioral Changes

### **Share your Story**

Everyone affected by acoustic neuroma has a unique story to tell, including patients, spouses, and caregivers. It can also include children of those diagnosed with AN, best friends, siblings. There are many different perspectives and insights. All are connected to an acoustic neuroma experience, and all are valuable. <u>Contact us</u> to request our Storytelling Toolkit and share your story today!

## **Employment Considerations Reference Guide**

The ANA's employment reference guide was compiled from patients, volunteers, and caregivers. Each AN journey is unique, and employment situations can certainly be distinctive. We encourage you to use this resource as a starting point as you consider your situation, as well as questions, and options. This is not meant to be comprehensive, nor should it be considered legal advice. Please reach out to us with comments/suggestions at info@anausa.org.

#### **AN Research**

The ANA posts information about acoustic neuroma medical studies and trials which may be of interest to patients and caregivers. Visit the ANA website for more information about online and in-person research opportunities.

### **Resources for Young Adults with Acoustic Neuroma**

- Young Adult Facebook Group This is a closed group moderated by ANA Staff and Volunteers. https://www.facebook.com/groups/ANAYoungAdults
- Young Adult Online Support Group The group meets quarterly via Zoom and is moderated by ANA volunteers. For more information, contact: Emily Truell, Peer Mentor, <a href="mailto:anayoungadults@gmail.com">anayoungadults@gmail.com</a>
- Peer Mentor Program

Peer Mentors are volunteers who are acoustic neuroma patients and caregivers that are willing to talk about their acoustic neuroma experience. They provide information, encouragement, and support to other acoustic neuroma patients via phone, email and video chat. Information about peer mentors is provided in our free patient kit or contact us to request a peer match today.

### **Support Groups**

The ANA offers a variety of support groups so that you can find what is best for you and your situation, including:

- Geographic support groups across the U.S.
- Specialty support groups
- Co-sponsored support group with a medical partner

All Support Group meetings are free and open to anyone affected by acoustic neuroma; we look forward to welcoming you at a meeting soon. When you are ready, we are here. Visit the <u>ANA website</u> for more information and to find a group.

### **Visit the ANA Website**

- ANA Store Shop for ANA branded merchandise and help support ANA programs.
- AN Research Learn more and participate in AN studies.
- <u>Community</u> Features include patient stories, fundraising ideas, and volunteer opportunities.
- <u>Events</u> View upcoming events and register for a meeting today.
- <u>Get Involved</u> Explore volunteer opportunities, increase awareness, and raise funds for the ANA.
- Healthcare Provider Listing A starting place to locate healthcare providers.
- Member Portal Find information booklets, newsletters, educational webinars, and a searchable peer mentor database.
- News and Announcements stay up-to-date on news, events, and other items of interest.
- Social Media stay connected on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>.
- <u>Video Library</u> Browse webinars, Facebook Live events, and support group meetings.

### **Team ANA** - Fundraise for the ANA!

- Increase awareness of acoustic neuroma while raising funds for the ANA.
- Create your own fundraisers through Facebook, Walk4Hearing, or any individual fundraiser held locally.
- Contact Matthew Balte at matthewbalte@anausa.org if you are interested in raising funds for the ANA!

# **ANA Legacy Society**

Philanthropic support is critically important to fulfilling the mission of the ANA. Our Legacy Society represents unique, exceptionally generous contributors who have included the ANA in their estate plans. This forward-looking philanthropy will have a remarkable impact on the future of the ANA. We are so very grateful for the commitments made by our Legacy Society members.

- To begin the conversation, please contact Matthew Balte at matthewbalte@anausa.org.
- You will also want to seek the advice of an attorney who specializes in estate planning.

In no case does ANA endorse any commercial product, physician, surgeon, medical procedure, medical institution, or its staff.

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