

Coma and disorders of consciousness: Initiatives of the curing coma campaign

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Abstract

Recovery from coma or disordered consciousness is a central issue in patients with acute brain injuries such as stroke, trauma, cardiac arrest, and brain infections. Yet, major gaps remain in the scientific underpinnings of coma and this has led to inaccuracy in prognostication and limited interventions for coma recovery. In 2018, a panel of multidisciplinary experts gathered at the Neurocritical Care Society Blue Ocean Strategy meeting and set forth a grand challenge for the society: To Cure Coma. Since then, Neurocritical Care community has worked diligently to identify and solicit expert opinions, define important knowledge gaps, and embarked upon this ardent journey to improve the standards of care in patients (across all age groups) with acute disorders of consciousness. To this effect, the Curing Coma Campaign was officially announced at the 17th Neurocritical Care Society's Annual Meeting in Vancouver in 2019. It has since received a highly favorable response worldwide and is now an established a global network of over 200 coma scientists, clinicians, and related stakeholders. To address this "grand challenge," the Curing Coma Campaign has developed an infrastructure of scientific working groups and operational modules, along with a 10-year roadmap which was discussed in the 2nd NIH-Curing Coma Campaign symposium.

Biography

Dr Mainali MD, FNCS is a clinician scientist and an Associate Professor of Neurology at the Virginia Commonwealth University. Her clinical specialty involves Neurocritical Care and Cerebrovascular Disease and she serves as the Director of Clinical Research for Stroke and Neurocritical Care. She is greatly involved in the Curing Coma Campaign as an Executive Committee member as well as the member of the Scientific steering committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. She also serves as the Chair of the Research Operations Subcommittee and serves on the guideline committee of the Neurocritical Care Society.