

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation Gathers in Conjunction with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Meeting and Names Its First Female Chair, Dr. Uzma Samadani**

Naperville, IL — The ThinkFirst Foundation, the world’s largest non-profit organization dedicated to traumatic injury prevention, convened in San Francisco last month for a meeting in conjunction with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

During the meeting, the organization named neurosurgeon Uzma Samadani MD PhD as its first female Chair. Dr. Samadani is an Associate Professor in the Department of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in the School of Engineering at the University of Minnesota and graduate faculty in Neuroscience in the School of Medicine, as well as a practicing neurosurgeon at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and CentraCare Hospital. She has twice been named to Minnesota Monthly’s “Top Docs” in neurosurgery list and lauded as a “Courageous Woman in Healthcare” by the Minneapolis Women’s Health Leadership Trust.



“As the first female Chair of the ThinkFirst Foundation, my goal is to raise awareness of injury prevention education to make it accessible to everyone at all phases of their life. Injury prevention should not be targeted by sports predilection or to any particular sex, age, race or other classifier. Historically females and minorities are more likely to experience healthcare disparities that result in prolonged consequences after injury, and I hope to bring awareness to that problem.”

Dr. Samadani has dedicated her research career to development of objective measures for injury including radiographic measures, serum markers, eye tracking and many other modalities. In medicine, we can only prevent or treat a problem if we can measure it. She is often referred to as a brain trauma detective working to contribute to the growing scientific knowledge of objective measures. “For doctors who treat brain injury, this may be a quantum leap - concussion does not have to be invisible and it is my goal that objective measures will help reduce unconscious bias in assessment and treatment of brain injury” said Dr. Samadani.

After obtaining her PhD and MD at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Dr. Samadani completed neurosurgical residency training at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania and a Van Wagenen Fellowship in Germany. She has served on the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Executive Committee for Trauma and Critical Care, as Scientific Program Chair of the AANS/CNS National Neurotrauma Society Meeting and is a Past-President of Women in Neurosurgery. She has had more than \$3 million in research funding for her work in neurosurgery and published more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific publications in journals ranging from the New England Journal of Medicine to the Journal of Neurotrauma. She also has numerous patents on technology for assessment of brain injury and is a founder of the neurodiagnostic company Oculogica Inc.

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## News Release

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About ThinkFirst: The mission of ThinkFirst is to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education, research and advocacy. Founded by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 1986, the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation, based in the Chicago suburb of Naperville, is an independent 501c3 charitable organization. For more information on ThinkFirst visit [www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org).