"NEUROSURGE"
MONTHLY INFORMATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

STAYING CONNECTED:
It became clear to me quite some time ago that rapid dissemination of information is paramount to success in academic neurosurgery today. I have created "NEUROSURGE" as our electronic periodical which will keep all of you informed as to events within our division, upcoming meetings, honours and awards, and new appointments. I do hope you will find this information of benefit. If you have items you would like to add to upcoming "NEUROSURGE" publications, please send them to Stephanie Neilson by e-mail (sneilson@sickkids.on.ca) or by phone at 813-8441.

NEUROSURGERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
"Vision for the Next Millennium"

"I am deeply honoured and humbled by this extraordinary opportunity to lead our Division of Neurosurgery at The University of Toronto into the next millennium. I would sincerely like to thank the neurosurgical residents, neurosurgical staff, and the Search Committee for bestowing this honour upon me. A testament to the great strength of our program is that the search for the position of Chairman was conducted entirely from within our own institution.

I am humbled by this appointment as I follow in the footsteps of neurosurgical leaders and innovators such as Charles Tator and Alan Hudson. Both Charles and Alan had set incredibly high standards. Tonight, I would like to set the bar for neurosurgical standards even higher. My vision of the program is that we become the best Neurosurgical Program in North America. I believe we are the best already in several areas. However, I will not rest, and my vision will not be complete until we are universally acclaimed the best Neurosurgical Program in North America.

It has been said that nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm. Those of you who know me, know just how enthusiastically I will apply myself to the task at hand. I will devote my utmost energies, and my youth, what's left of it, to this position.

For those of you who enjoy fast rides, I suggest you to fasten your seatbelts, hold onto your hats but by all means keep your eyes open because I assure you that the view as we move into the next millennium within our Division of Neurosurgery will be spectacular". (excerpt from Jim Rutka's Acceptance Speech, Vaughn Estates, year end review for Division of Neurosurgery, June 2nd, 1999).
NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

In efforts to take full advantage of the outstanding talent within our Division, I am pleased to make the following announcements regarding new appointments in our Division. Please be aware that my decision to make these appointments came only after I received a great deal of input from both residents and staff in the Division of Neurosurgery, and after I had ample time to reflect on the best candidates for each position.

Program Director: Chris Wallace
Course Director: Michael Cusimano
Research Director: Michael Fehlings

Neuro-Oncology Committee Chairman: Ab Guha

Dan Chair Fund Executor for the Toronto Western Site Mark Bernstein

Congratulations to all! I know you will all help me support these individuals in their respective roles over the ensuing months.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

I am pleased to announce the structure of the new Residency Program Committee for the year 1999-2000.

Residents - Wai Ng
Matt Feldkamp
Julian Spears
Brad Jacobs

Staff Neurosurgeons Chris Wallace (Program Director)
Mark Bernstein
Jim Drake
Paul Muller
Mike Schwartz

AWARDS

Michael Fehlings and co-investigators L. Zhang, J.Eubanks, J.Gurd, P.Carlen, and A. Baker have received a 3-year (1999-2002) grant from the Medical Research Council of Canada/Canadian Neurotrauma Partnership Program, "Role of glial AMPA/Kainate receptors in neurotrauma".

Jim Rutka and colleagues Ben Alman (Orthopedics), and CC Hui (Developmental Biology) have received a 3-year grant (1999-2002) for "Role of sonic hedgehog signaling in brain and cartilage neoplasms" from the Terry Fox New Frontiers Award, National Cancer Institute of Canada. This grant was based in part on new work in the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre as performed by Michael Taylor regarding medulloblastomas.
Todd Mainprize received a National Cancer Institute of Canada Research Fellowship Award for his work on verotoxin treatment of human astrocytomas to be performed in the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre. Supervisor, Jim Rutka.

Eve Tsai received an Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation Fellowship Award plus an award from the Joint Section on Trauma of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. She is currently doing research with Dr. Charles Tator.

Nicholas Phan received an MRC Fellowship Award. He is under the supervision of Doctors Fehlings and Moulton.

PUBLICATIONS

Myles LM, Gupta N, Armstrong D, Rutka JT. Multiple extradural arachnoid cysts as a cause of spinal cord compression in a child. J Neurosurg 91:116-120; 1999 (July)


Sattler R, Xiong Z, Lu W-Y, Hafner M, MacDonald JF, Tymianski M. Specific coupling of NMDA receptor activation to nitric oxide neurotoxicity by PSD-95 protein. Science 284:1845-1848; 1999 (June)

Congratulations to Michael Tymianski and colleagues for this outstanding accomplishment!


Ng WP, Lozano AM. Neuronal age influences the response to neurite outgrowth inhibitory activity in the central and peripheral nervous systems. Brain Res 836:49-61; 1999 (July)


The major neuroscience journals will be scanned and publications from our Division reported. If you have other publications in journals you would like me to include, please give the details to Stephanie at 813-8441.

RESIDENTS CORNER
With each issue of NEUROSURGE, there will be an opportunity for the residents to post information of interest for the entire program. I would ask the residents to contact Stephanie for any information that they would want to send. Below is an item that came to my attention regarding the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

Residents' Section for the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences:
The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences will be undertaking a new initiative in which CPC's will be published monthly. This will provide an opportunity for residents who have seen interesting cases to write up the case, and to have another resident undertake to solve the case. This would be an outstanding opportunity for our residents on research who wish to write up additional publications to add to your C.V. If you have seen an interesting case, please let me know.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
1. Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) - New Key Dates for Upcoming CHSRF Competitions. Deadline for submission of LOIs: NOVEMBER 30TH, 1999

2. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Fellowship Award deadline: NOVEMBER 1ST, 1999

3. University of Toronto - Connaught New Staff Matching Grant. Deadline for submission of application: DECEMBER 1ST, 1999


QUESTION OF THE WEEK
In efforts to hone our residents' (and neurosurgical staff's!) working knowledge of neuroanatomy, Robin Humphreys has developed the "Question of the Week" format at The Hospital for Sick Children. All
residents (whether on clinical or research rotations) are strongly encouraged to answer these questions, and to keep a file of all questions and their answers readily accessible for review prior to taking the Royal College Examination. In addition, some of these questions will appear on an in-house neuroanatomy "quiz" which will take place periodically throughout the year.

I would like to thank Robin Humphreys for providing such a useful educational instrument for our Program. Answers to the present question along with a new question will appear in the next issue of NEUROSURGE.

**QUESTION:**
For each numbered item, select the one lettered heading with which it is most closely associated. Each lettered heading may be used once, more than once or not at all.

Match each numbered structure with its derivation

(A) Alar plate  
(B) Basal plate  
(C) Mesencephalon  
(D) Rhombic lips  
(E) Sulcus limitans  
(F) Roof plate  
(G) Neural crest  
(H) Myelencephalon  
(I) Floor plate  
(J) Rathke's pouch

1. Alpha motor neurons  
2. Proper sensory nucleus  
3. Dorsal root ganglia  
4. Spinal nucleus (cranial nerve V)  
5. Choroid plexus

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**
5th International Neurotrauma Symposium, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, October 1-5, 2000

Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Boston, October 30-November 4, 1999

Inter-Urban Brain Injury Conference, Toronto, September 30-October 1, 1999

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, Atlanta, Georgia, December 1-4, 1999

AANS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 8-13, 2000

AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine & Peripheral Nerves, Palm Springs, California, February 23-26, 2000

Joint Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Cerebrovascular Surgery & American Society of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 6-9, 2000

**BOTTERELL LECTURESHIP - NOVEMBER 22ND, 1999**
The Division of Neurosurgery, The Toronto Western Hospital, is pleased to announce this year's Botterell Lectureship will be given by Dr. Peter Black, Neurosurgeon-in-Chief, Boston Children's Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Franc D. Ingraham Professor of Neurosurgery, Harvard Medical School, November 22nd, 1999. In contrast to other years, this year's lectureship will be held entirely on one day. The final program will be provided by Fred Gentili. The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

8:00 - 10:00  Resident case presentations

10:00 - 12:00  Clinical research papers by residents for the Horsey Prize
12:00 - 2:00   OMA meeting

2:00 - 5:00   Special Session on the Impact of New Technologies in Neurosurgery

5:00 - 6:00   Dr. Black's Special Lecture

Please note that all residents are strongly encouraged to present their work for the Horsey Prize in Neurosurgery. The Horsey Prize is given to the best Clinical Research Paper given by a neurosurgery resident in the Division of Neurosurgery.

RESIDENT SEMINAR SERIES
Sept. 3rd - Cancelled - Labour Day

Sept. 10th - Basic Science Aspects of Spinal Cord Injury - Dr. S. Casha

Sept. 17th - City Wide Rounds  0700-0900 Hours, Room #1250, Elm Street, First Floor - The Hospital for Sick Children

Sept. 24th - The New Curriculum - Planning Session -Dr. Michael Cusimano. Mandatory Attendance!

The seminars will be held at The Hospital for Sick Children from 0800-1000 hours in Room 1527, 1st Floor, Gerrard Wing, unless otherwise indicated.

HEADS OF DIVISION MEETING
Thursday, September 16th, 1999 0700-0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor, Gerrard Wing

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 21st, 1999 0700-0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor, Gerrard Wing