"NEUROSURGE"

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

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

NEW YEAR’S NEWS – January, 2001:
A Happy New Year to all! The New Year began auspiciously for the Division of Neurosurgery when it was announced that a $1 million donation was made by the Campeau family to the existing Charles H. Tator Endowment Fund to create the $2 million Robert Campeau Family Foundation/Charles H. Tator Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research at the Toronto Western Hospital.

On January 18th, 2001, Dr. Lawrence F. Marshall, Professor and Chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of California San Diego delivered the XIVth Annual Marshall Lecture on the topic of Head Injury: Recent Past, Present and Future. Dr. Marshall, who sits on the Board of the Residency Review Committee in Neurosurgery in the U.S. and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurosurgery, spoke to our residents on January 19th, 2001, during their Friday morning seminar series on the practical topic of common mistakes made in neurosurgery.

Co-incident with the Marshall Lectureship was the visit of the CaRMS candidates in neurosurgery, January 17th – 19th, 2001. This year, an outstanding group of 11 prospective applicants were interviewed. Special thanks to Katie and Chris Wallace for
hosting the welcome reception and dinner, January 18th, at their home for all the CaRMS candidates, faculty and residents.

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS
Charles Tator – The establishment of the Robert Campeau Family Foundation/Charles H. Tator Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research.

Michael Tymianski and co-applicants M.W. Salter, J.W. Gurd, R.A.R. Tasker, and Y.T. Wang have been awarded a grant from the Canadian Stroke Networks for their Project entitled: Glutamate receptor scaffolding and signaling protein interactions – targets for neuroprotective agents.

Gwen Schwartz (Student of Michael Fehlings) received the prestigious Fielding Award from the Cervical Spine Research Society for her work entitled “Therapeutic sodium channel blockers improve behavioural and neuroanatomical recovery after traumatic spinal cord injury”.

Karen Davis has recently been awarded a Canada Research Chair, Tier 2. Congratulations!

PUBLICATIONS


Taylor RB, Wennberg RA, Lozano AM, Sharpe JA. Central nystagmus induced by deep-brain stimulation for epilepsy. Epilepsia 41:1637-41, 2000 (December)


The major neuroscience journals will be scanned, and a Medline search will be performed every month for each Neurosurgical Staff. If you have other publications in journals not tracked by these methods, please give the details to Stephanie at 813-8441.

UP-COMING NEUROSURGERY LECTURES

2001 Annual Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre Academic Lecture: On January 25th, 2001, Dr. David Kaplan, Director of the Brain Tumour Research Centre at the Montreal Neurological Institute, will deliver the 2001 Annual Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre Academic Lecture on: Signal transduction pathways controlling the survival and growth of glioma and neuroblastoma cells. This lecture will take place in Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children, 5 – 6 pm, Thursday January 25th, 2001.

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Michael Fehlings. 13th Annual Contemporary Update on Disorders of the Spine, Whistler, BC. 1) Invited Lecturer: Spine Trauma: Should we decompress complete cord

JOB & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Tenure track position in Surgical Neurology, National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. An MD or MD/Ph.D. with neurosurgical training and at least two years of research experience is required. Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2001.

The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies offers five awards to young neurosurgeons for original research to be presented at the World Congress in 2001. Submission deadline is March 1, 2001.

RESIDENTS' CORNER


Neurosurgery curriculum presentations for residents are now being posted on the internet. The website to go to is:  http://brainavm.oci.utoronto.ca/staff/Wallace/2000_curriculum/index.html
http://ots.utoronto.ca/users/howardg/index.html    This web site lists study notes for residents, important web-site links, journal club articles, call schedules, and discussion page for residents. Many thanks to Howard Ginsberg for creating this outstanding educational resource for the Division of Neurosurgery.

A neuroendoscopy course for residents is organized for February 10th, 2001. Honoured guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Cohen, pediatric neurosurgeon from Case Western Reserve University. All residents are encouraged to attend. This course is organized by Dr. Jim Drake. Additional information will be forthcoming.

ASIA spinal cord clinical assessment handbooks are available in Dr. Rutka’s office. Please ask Stephanie.

William P. Van Wagenen Fellowships for 2001. All senior residents interested in applying for these highly-coveted traveling fellowships sponsored by the AANS should go to http://www.neurosurgery.org/aans/research for more information. In the past, U of T residents have been successful in receiving these fellowships.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
Effects of sympathetic nervous system activity include all of the following EXCEPT

(A) pupillary dilatation  
(B) acceleration of heart rate  
(C) dilatation of the blood vessels of the extremities and trunk  
(D) inhibition of gastric motility  
(E) secretion from the adrenal medulla

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (December NEUROSURGE volume 2; issue 4)

The answer is C.

Lesions of the cortex associated with the origin of the corticospinal tracts (such as the motor cortex, postcentral gyrus, or premotor area) or along the pathway for this system (eg internal capsule) produce a constellation of characteristic deficits. These include paralysis of the contralateral limb(s), hyperreflexia, spasticity and a Babinski sign. Because the cell bodies of origin of this pathway have been damaged, Wallerian degeneration ensues, and this reduces the size of the internal capsule through which the corticospinal tract passes. This can be readily observed on a CT scan of the brain of such a patient. Typically, the limbs on the side ipsilateral to the site of the lesion are unaffected by it.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS

NATIONAL/NORTH AMERICAN:

Internet Neurosurgery Rounds Group. January 31, 2001. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Co-chaired by Dr. John Hurlbert, Neurosurgeon, Calgary Foothills Hospital. For more information, please see Stephanie.


26th International Stroke Conference, February 14-16, 2001, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.


First annual meeting of the Canadian Spine Society, Thursday March 22 – 24, 2001 Chateau Mont-Tremblant, Quebec.

3rd International Hydrocephalus Workshop, May 17-20, 2001, Kos, Greece


UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO:
Trauma Research Day 2001 sponsored by U. of T. Trauma Committee and Cara Phelan Centre for Trauma Research. Mount Sinai Hospital, Ben Sadowski Auditorium, 18th Floor, Wednesday, April 4th, 2001 0730-1630.


2001 Keith Professorship in Neurosurgery, February 19-20, 2001, Toronto Western Hospital. Visiting Professor – Professor David Piepgras, Mayo Medical School

City Wide Neurosurgery Rounds:
January 26th, 2000, Cancelled (Labatt Lectureship)
February 23rd, 2000, Cancelled (Keith Lectureship)
March 23rd, 2000, Sunnybrook and Women’s College Health Science Centre
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
NEUROSURGICAL RESIDENT SEMINARS

FEBRUARY 2ND  Pathology
Dr. N. Al-Shafai, Dr. J. Bilbao, Dr. M. Fazl

FEBRUARY 9TH  Electrophysiology
Dr. A. Krassioukov, Dr. D. Houlden

FEBRUARY 16TH  Cervical Spine Trauma
Dr. M. Bin-Mahfoodh, Dr. M. Fazl

FEBRUARY 23RD  CANCELLED - Keith Visiting Professorship
February 19-20

FEBRUARY 23RD  CITY-WIDE ROUNDS CANCELLED

THE SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
FROM 0900-1200 HOURS IN ROOM 1527, 1ST FLOOR, GERRARD WING, UNLESS
OTHERWISE INDICATED.

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, January 25th, 2001 0700-0800 hours, North Conference Room, Room 1431,
First Floor Black Wing

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Tuesday, January 30th, 2001 0700-0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor, Gerrard Wing