"NEUROSURGE"

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

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Two Reasons to Celebrate:
From April 21 – 26, Toronto played host to a delegation of over 5,000 registrants of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons during the 70th Annual Meeting of the AANS. As President, Dr. Stewart Dunsker presided over the meeting, and delivered his Presidential Address on the difficulties facing the American Health Care System in the next decade. The Division of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto hosted a Cocktail and Jazz Reception on Monday April 23rd at which time some 300 faculty members, residents, alumni, and invited guests appeared in the Essex Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel. On the whole, the entire meeting was deemed an outstanding success. See photos below of resident and staff activities during the AANS.

On Thursday April 26th, the Division of Neurosurgery underwent a formal program review by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. The Review Team, led by Dr. William Wrixon, Dalhousie University, spent the entire day with Dr’s Rutka and Wallace, the neurosurgery faculty, and all residents in the Program. The following day, April 27th, Dr.’s Rutka and Wallace were debriefed about the Program in Neurosurgery. The Program was very favorably reviewed by the Royal College. A number of major strengths were enumerated. Final deliberations regarding our status will be made by the Accreditation Committee of the Royal College this fall. However, we are poised to receive Full Approval. Thanks to Chris Wallace for organizing the entire Royal College
Review Day. And special thanks to Sandi Amaral for her efforts in preparing all the documents for the Royal College.

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS
Lori Edwards (PhD student with Michael Fehlings) placed first in the 2001 Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum for basic science oral presentation. (sponsored by the University of Toronto MD/PhD program)

Raj Rampersaud and Michael Fehlings received the AANS/CNS 2001 Sanford Larson Award for “Intraoperative computerized tomography and spinal navigation: Application in the cervical spine”.

Michael Taylor received a CIHR post-doctoral fellowship award for his research on medulloblastoma. This is the third research fellowship Michael has received for his research proposal; the other two being from the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation of the AANS, and the American Brain Tumor Association. His supervisor is Jim Rutka. Congratulations to Michael!

Jim Rutka has been elected to the position of Chairman of the Joint Section on Tumors of the AANS and CNS. This is a 2-year term.

Eve Tsai was one of the joint winners of the Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) Resident Scholarship Award. This was announced at the WINS meeting at the AANS Annual Meeting last week in Toronto.

Jim Rutka is co-investigator on a 3 year grant funded by the NCIC on the Epidemiology of Childhood Brain Tumors in the Province of Ontario (John McLaughlin, Principal Investigator).

PUBLICATIONS


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.

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Andres Lozano. The 5th International Conference on Progress in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease, Kyoto, Japan. 1) Invited speaker. Surgical treatment of


JOB & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Children’s Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio is looking for a pediatric neurosurgeon.

Raleigh Neurosurgical Clinic is recruiting a surgeon with a special interest in vascular surgery to begin practice in approximately July 2002.

RESIDENTS’ CORNER
An outstanding Lougheed Microvascular Course was held from April 2-6, 2001. Organized by Chris Wallace, this spring’s course was supported by visiting guest lectures by Dr John Jane, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Virginia; and by Dr Dwight Parkinson, Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Manitoba. In addition to teaching the registrants for the course nuances of neurosurgical approaches, Dr. Jane gave a lecture on the surgery of craniosynostosis in children, and Dr. Parkinson lectured on the lateral dural sinus compartment. Special thanks to Chris Wallace for hosting the biannual dinner at Bodega, and for organizing the course for the registrants. See photo below of residents with Dr’s Jane and Parkinson.

A hands-on brachial plexus and upper limb dissection course has been organized by Dr. Alan Hudson for May 12, 2001 at the Surgical Skills Centre. The course will run from 8:00 a.m. (coffee) to 5:00 p.m. Additional information will follow by email shortly.

The annual year end mock oral exam will take place Saturday May 5th, 2001, for all residents on the clinical services, and is being organized by Dr. James Drake. Please mark your calendars now. Specific resident responsibilities will be emailed by Helen Ntoukas from Dr. Drake’s office this week.

The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences (CJNS) has started a section called Progress in Clinical Neurosciences. This is in the form of a review article where a contemporary topic in the neurosciences is presented. Regular articles are being submitted from Neurology but not from Neurosurgery. To maintain a high standard, papers are peer reviewed. I would encourage staff, residents and fellows to take this
The North American Spine Society (NASS) offers the following Research Awards & Grants. 1) Clinical Traveling Fellowship: At least one month to be spent in 3-5 different medical centers. Must be received in the NASS office by May 4, 2001. 2) Research Traveling Fellowship: At least five months at one medical center (other than the one in which the applicant currently practices). Must be received in the NASS office by May 4, 2001. 3) Research Grants: For investigative research on the spine. Must be received in the NASS office by May 4, 2001.

The Canadian Stroke Society is sponsoring an award for the best essay on original clinical or laboratory research in cerebrovascular disease, including rehabilitation. The successful candidate will be a Canadian trainee (resident, fellow, graduate student or post-doctoral fellow) who will be awarded $1500 plus expenses (airfare, and 3 nights accommodations) to present the paper at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 12-16, 2001. Essays should be no more than 15 double-spaced pages (excluding references, figures, and tables). The deadline for submission is April 30, 2001.

Neurosurgery curriculum presentations for residents are now being posted on the internet. The website to go to is:

The website below lists previous volumes of Neurosurge, Journal club articles, lecture notes, and important web links.
http://ots.utoronto.ca/users/howardg/index.html

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

Chairman’s Canoe Trip. Norway Lake, Killarney, September 7-9, 2001. Mark your calendars now! Further information will be forthcoming.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
Which of the following sensory systems is able to utilize a circuit that bypasses the thalamus for the transmission of sensory information from the periphery to the cerebral cortex?

(A) Conscious proprioception
(B) taste
(C) olfaction
(D) vision
(E) audition

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (March NEUROSURGE Volume 2; Issue 7)
The answer is D.

Lesions of the lateral hypothalamus are likely to produce aphagia. Feeding behaviour is elicited by stimulation of the lateral hypothalamus. Neurons in this region respond to the sight of taste or food. Since drinking is also associated with lateral hypothalamic functions, a lesion of this structure would also disrupt this behaviour. Lesions of the lateral hypothalamus do not produce either hypertension or sexual behaviours. The neurons regulating these functions are elsewhere within the hypothalamus.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
This is a website devoted to neurosurgical disorders of the spine. On this site, the major spinal diseases are discussed. There are consultants’ opinions. And, there is a decent section on vertebral anatomy (provided just in time for the residents’ exam this Friday).

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS
NATIONAL/NORTH AMERICAN:

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


UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO:
NEUROSURGICAL RESIDENT SEMINARS, 2000-2001
MAY 4TH, SPINE CURRICULUM EXAM, **TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL, FELL PAVILION 5-201**

MAY 11TH, EPILEPSY, DR. T. VALIANTE, DR. R. WENNBERG, DR. M.P. MCANDREWS, DR. P. CARLEN

MAY 18TH, EPILEPSY, DR. J. BRUNI, DR. R. WENNBERG, DR. P. SHANNON

MAY 25TH, EPILEPSY, DR. S. WOODROW, DR. K. THAPAR

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, May 24th, 2001 0700-0800 hours, North Conference Room, Room 1431, First Floor Black Wing

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Tuesday, May 29th, 2001 0700-0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor, Roy Hill Wing