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

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
Major Gift to Neuro-Oncology Research from the Berman Family Received. Helen and Joe Berman (retired executive member of Cadillac Fairview Corporation) have directed $3.5 million dollars in the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation to be used towards Neuro-Oncology research in the memory of their son, Laurie Berman, who passed away from a brainstem tumour last year. The new fund entitled the Laurie Berman Fund in Neuro-Oncology Research will be used to complement research studies within the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre. Monies from the Laurie Berman Fund in Neuro-Oncology Research will become available for expenditures later this year.

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS
A banner year for the Division of Neurosurgery at CIHR. Results from the September 15th 2001 competition:

Karen Davis (UHN) and co-applicant Nicholas Diamant received a 5 year grant (103,415/year) for their grant entitled Human Studies of Pain Perception.

Raj Midha (Sunnybrook and Women’s) and co-applicants Isabelle Aubert and Molly Shoichet received a 3 year grant (84,519/year) for their grant entitled In vivo Testing of Novel Artificial Grafts to Improve Peripheral Nerve Regeneration.

Michael Tymianski (UHN) received a 3 year grant (105,658/year) for his project entitled Cellular Mechanisms of secondary traumatic neuronal injury.

Congratulations to all our CIHR grant award recipients!
Ab Guha has been named the Inaugural Chair holder of the Alan and Susan Hudson Chair in Neuro-Oncology.

PUBLICATIONS


Lozano AM, Lang AE. Pallidotomy for Parkinson’s Disease. Advances in Neurology 86:413-420, 2001


Michael Fehlings served as Guest Editor for a Special Focus issue of “SPINE” devoted entirely to a state-of the art review of basic and clinical aspects of spinal cord injury. The issue is available on the web at www.spinejournal.com. The following topics are included in this special issue of SPINE. Highlights of the issue include pro/con debate
regarding the use of steroids in spinal cord injury and the presentation of the results of the GM-1 ganglioside trial in acute spinal cord injury.

Guest Editor: Focus Issue Spine, on Spinal Cord Injury, Volume 26, December 15, 2001

- P. S1 Introduction to Focus Issue on Spinal Cord Injury
  Michael G. Fehlings
- P. S2 Epidemiology, Demographics, and Pathophysiology of Acute Spinal Cord Injury
  Lali H.S. Sekhon, MB, BS, PhD, FRACS; Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCS(C)
- P. S23 Summary Statement: Repair of the Injured Spinal Cord
  Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC; Wolfram Tetzlaff, MD, PhD
- P. S55 Summary Statement: The Use of Methylprednisolone in Acute Spinal Cord Injury
  Michael G. Fehlings; the Spine Focus Panel
- P. S56 Editorial: Recommendations Regarding the Use of Methylprednisolone in Acute Spinal Cord Injury: Making Sense out of the Controversy
  Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC
  Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC; Michael B. Bracken, PhD
- P. S101 The Role and Timing of Decompression in Acute Spinal Cord Injury: What Do We Know? What Should We Do?
  Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCS(C); Lali H.S. Sekhon, MB, BS, PhD, FRACS; Charles Tator, MD, PhD, FRCS(C)


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


JOB & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Loma Linda University School of Medicine is looking for an additional faculty member in their pediatric neurosurgical section. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Austin Colohan.

Connaught Fund Programs
Graduate Student Scholarships, Deadline – February 1st, 2002
Automatic Start-up Grants for New Tenured and Tenure-Stream Faculty, Deadline – none
Grants for International Colloquia/Symposia, Deadline – March 16, 2002

North American Spine Society
2002 Outstanding Paper Award. Submission DEADLINE: March 2, 2002

AONA Resident Trauma Research Support Program –
http://membrane.com/sona/res98.html

RESIDENTS' CORNER
Fourth Annual Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre Academic Lecture. Professor Charles Stiles, Harvard Medical School. Genetics of Glial Cell Development in the Vertebrate CNS. Thursday, January 31, 2002, 4-5 p.m., Main Auditorium, HSC.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center has fellowships in clinical and/or investigative neuro-oncology beginning July 1, 2002. Further information is available from Stephanie.

Surgical Neurology Branch offers combined basic science and clinical fellowships to those considering careers in academic neurosurgery. For further information go to http://intra.ninds.nih.gov/Lab.asp?Org_ID=95


A photo of the recent Hockey Match between faculty and residents December 22nd, 2001, at Varsity Arena is found at the bottom of this page.

The first hands on epilepsy course in the Division of Neurosurgery was held January 5 and 6 2002, and was received with great enthusiasm (see attached photo below). Special thanks to Aviva Aboesch and Kamal Thapar for assisting with the dissections and special lectures.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)

All the following statements concerning the decussation of the pyramids are true EXCEPT
(A) the decussation is situated in the most caudal part of the medulla

(B) the fibers contained within this bundle arise exclusively from area 4 of the cerebral cortex

(C) fibers contained in this bundle are distributed to all levels of the spinal cord

(D) fibers contained in the bundle provide the anatomic substrate by which the left cerebral cortex can mediate voluntary movements of the right limbs

(E) a complete lesion of the decussation would produce quadriplegia

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (December NEUROSURGE Volume 3; Issue 4)

The answer is D.

It is important to note that fibers from the motor cortex are directed not only to the spinal cord but also to a number of other target structures associated with the regulation of motor functions. These include the red nucleus (as part of the corticorubral-rubrospinal system), ventral lateral (VL) nucleus of the thalamus (as part of a feedback mechanism regulating cortical afferents from the basal ganglia and cerebellum), and deep pontine nuclei (as part of corticopontine-cerebellar pathway). Projections to brainstem nuclei mentioned in the question are ipsilateral, while the projection to the spinal cord is principally contralateral. The pathway from the cerebral cortex to the cerebellum is not a direct one. It involves an initial synapse in the deep pontine nuclei whose axons then project to the contralateral cerebellar cortex.

PDF OF THE MONTH

With this issue of Neurosurge, I will begin to send all of you interesting articles in PDF format which you can keep in your files. To read PDF files, you will need to install Adobe Acrobat on your computer. You can do this by going to:


This month’s PDF is an article from the December issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery on chordomas by Dr. Al-Mefty and colleagues.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

http://www.neurosurgery.org/nsimages/

This web address resides at Neurosurgery On-Call, and provides a vast array of radiographs and images that can be utilized for teaching purposes.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS

University of Toronto
Annual Keith Visiting Professorship, February 11-12, 2002, Mitchel S. Berger, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, The University of California San Francisco. Further details have been provided by Dr. Mark Bernstein.
NATIONAL/NORTH AMERICAN:
AANS/CNS Section on Cerebrovascular Surgery and the American Society of
Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology, Fifth Joint Meeting, Addison (Dallas),
Texas, February 3-6, 2002. Early bird registration deadline: North American Skull Base
Society, Loews Coronado Bay Resort, San Diego, CA, February 16-19, 2002

Canadian Spine Society, Silver Star Mountain Resort, Vernon, British Columbia, March

2002 AANS/CNS Section on Tumor Satellite Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, April 11-12,
2002.

2002 AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves Annual

2002 American Association of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois,
April 6-11, 2002.

XVIIIth Congress of the European Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, Kiruna, Lappland,


may be submitted through the Online Abstract Center at

Abstract DEADLINE: March 4, 2002
2002 Outstanding Paper Award. Submission DEADLINE: March 2, 2002
2002 Research Grants and Fellowships Program. Application DEADLINE: May 3,
2002.

NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS:
The seminars will be held at The Hospital for Sick Children beginning at 0900 hours in
Room 1527, 1st Floor, Roy Hill Wing (previously known as Gerrard Wing) unless
otherwise noted.

Pediatric Neurosurgery Curriculum 2002

February 1, Spinal Dysraphism I: Embryology of Neural Tube Formation And
Myelomeningocele, Dr. Mandeep Tamber. Epidemiology and Genetics of
Myelomeningocele, Dr. Peter Dirks. Clinical and Surgical Management of
Myelomeningocele, Dr. Peter Dirks
February 8, Intracranial Cysts, Dr. Howard Ginsberg. Encephaloceles, Dr. James Rutka. Genetic Diagnosis and Counselling of Fetal Neurosurgical Anomalies, Dr. David Chitayat

February 11, 12 Keith Visiting Professor, Toronto Western Hospital, Dr. Mitch Berger

February 15, Cancelled

February 22, Spinal Dysraphism II: Split Cord Malformation and Neurenteric Cysts, Dr. Sheila Singh. Lipomyelomeningocele, Dermal Sinus Tracts, and The Tethered Cord, Dr. Robin Humphreys

The seminars will be held at The Hospital for Sick Children beginning at 0900 hours in Room 1527, 1st Floor, Roy Hill Wing unless otherwise noted.

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, February 21st, 2002

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 26th, 2002 0700-0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor Roy Hill Wing.