FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

The Resident Work Hours Debate in the United States:

As of July 1st, 2003, the ACGME (the accrediting body for residency programs in the United States) has decreed that residents in all programs can work no more than 80 hours per week. The new policy also states that US residents must have at least one 24 hour period away from the hospital each week. And post-call, residents will have but a few hours to complete their assignments before leaving for the day. In some circumstances, programs can lobby their local institutions for an additional 8 hours of duty bringing the maximum number of hours per week for most neurosurgical programs to 88.

This topic has been the source of considerable debate amongst our neurosurgery colleagues in the United States. Many of them do not have a system in place to cope with these new changes. But I think it is very interesting that the systems we have put in place a few years ago, are exactly what the neurosurgery programs south of the border are doing. Of course, these include the hiring of more nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and fellows to help with the work load and call issues. The fines for those who do not adhere to the 80 hr work ruling in the US will be severe. Those programs found in violation of the ruling may ultimately face loss of accreditation. What is not clear is how the ACGME will enforce their mandate over time.

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Jim Rutka was appointed to the AANS Board of Directors at the recent interim meeting of the AANS in Chicago, November 23rd, 2002. The appointment is for three years beginning April 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Downar J, Crawley AP, Mikulis DJ, Davis KD: A cortical network sensitive to


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Karen Davis was a speaker at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the NIH Office on Rare Diseases, Baltimore, MD, Mar 2002. Symposium: The Neurobiology of Craniofacial/Deep Tissue Persistent Pain. "fMRI of Pains Arising From Superficial, Deep and Visceral Sites"


Mark Bernstein was Visiting Professor at the University of Manitoba, “A Neurosurgeon Can Rant and Chant About Kant, Can’t He?” November 7-8, 2002.

Ab Guha was an invited speaker at the NCI; Mouse Models in Human Cancer Consortium, San Diego. “Progression of Astrocytoma Development in GFAP:12Vha-Ras Transgenic Mouse Glioma Model. November 21, 2002

Ab Guha spoke on a Clinical and Research Review of NF1, and delivered the Farber Lecture entitled Aberrant Signalling Complexes in Human Gliomas at the Society of Neurooncology meeting in San Diego, November 24, 2002

Robin Humphreys presented at the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery on Pediatric Intracranial Aneurysms. A review of 56 cases.” Kyoto, Japan, October 28-31, 2002

Robin Humphreys was Visiting Professor at the University of Rhode Island and delivered two lectures on the Idiosyncrasies of pediatric brain tumors and The differences between pediatric and adult spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage. Providence, RI, November 11, 2002

Sheila Singh and Peter Dirks presented their work as an oral presentation at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting on A Novel Assay of Stem Cells in Pediatric Brain Tumors, Orlando, Florida, November 3, 2002

Peter Dirks was an Invited Lecturer at the Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting and spoke on Cancer Stem Cells in Brain Tumors, and presented two posters on A Novel Assay of Stem Cells in Pediatric Brain Tumors, and Brain Tumor derived PDGFR-alpha is transforming and may suggest a role for PDGFR-alpha in the nucleus. San Diego, CA November 23, 2002

Jim Rutka was the 2002 J.Garber Galbraith Lecturer at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, November 7-9, 2002. He spoke on Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery: The Hospital for Sick Children Experience, and The Harold J. Hoffman Slide Collection: Images from 35 years of Pediatric Neurosurgical Experience

Jim Rutka was a guest speaker at the 2nd Annual Brain Tumor Awareness Day at the Brain Tumor Foundation in New York City, November 17, 2002. He spoke on Recent Advances in Brain Tumor Research

Jim Rutka was a guest examiner at the American Board of Neurological Surgeons oral examination in Houston, Texas, November 12-15, 2002.
Andres Lozano was an Invited International Speaker at the Federation on Latin American Neurosurgical Societies. He spoke on The Surgery of Dystonia. Lima, Peru, October 27, 2002.

Andres Lozano was a plenary speaker at the 7th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders. His presentation was entitled: Surgical Treatment of Movement Disorders. Miami, Florida, November 10-14, 2002.

Michael Fehlings attended the Spine Trauma Study Group as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Pre-ASIA Meeting on Surgical Challenges in the Treatment of Spine Trauma (in collaboration with Medtronic Sofamor Danek), Miami, April 5, 2003. He spoke on Key controversies in Spine Trauma Management, and Critical Care Management of Spinal Cord Injury: State of the Art and Future Directions Nov. 7-10, 2002.


Michael Fehlings had 12 posters presented at the First Joint Meeting of the National and International Neurotrauma Societies, in Tampa, Florida, Oct. 25-Nov 1, 2002: His collaborators, fellows and students on these projects include KC Hayes, N Phan, A Ackery, G Schwartz, Y Liu, S Veloumian, K Honsa, E Eftekharpour, S Karimi-Abdolrezaee, WB Jacobs, WR Yu, and GKT Chu.


RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Division of Neurosurgery Hockey Match, Sunday, December 22nd, 6 p.m., Varsity Arena. All residents and faculty members welcomed. Please sign up with Stephanie. Please note the change in date and time from that circulated previously.

Welcome Maya Singhal, 6 lbs, born November 2nd, 2002 to Muffy and Ash Singhal.

A Hands-on Temporal Bone Dissection Course will be held at the Surgical Skills Centre, Mt. Sinai Hospital, 9 am to 4 pm, January 4th, 2003. The course director will be John Rutka. There are approximately 12 positions for this course. Residents interested in taking this course should sign up with Stephanie as soon as possible.
Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Opportunity at MD Anderson Cancer Center now available: Seeks applicants for a 2-year fellowship in Neuro-Oncology beginning July 2003. Send application request to: Vinay K. Puduvalli, M.D., Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Director, Box 431, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston TX 77030; Ph: 713-745-0187.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys) All the following structures contribute to the walls of the lateral ventricle EXCEPT

(A) caudate nucleus
(B) habenula nucleus
(C) corpus callosum
(D) fornix
(E) septum pellucidum

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (October NEUROSURGE Volume 4; Issue 2) 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.


See PDF below.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH http://www.neurosurgery.org/resident/curriculum/index.html This is the Resident Curriculum Guidelines created and espoused by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. By going to this site, residents preparing for their Royal College Examinations will see an excellent list of topics to study.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO: 2002 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery, Friday November 29th, 2002, Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, Director of Neurosurgery, University of Erlangen, Germany. All lectures will take place in the Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing, 2nd Floor, Room 801, unless state otherwise.
MORNING SESSION:
0800 -0900 Guest Lecturer: Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, Neurosurgical Management of Craniopharyngiomas
0900-1030 Residents’ Rounds with Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, Case Presentations by University of Toronto Neurosurgical Residents, Main Auditorium, West Wing, 2-801, Chairman: Dr. Chris Wallace
1030- 1045 Dr. Alan Hudson: A Tribute to William J. Horsey
1045- 1200 Resident Clinical Research Presentations for the William J. Horsey Prize Chairman: Dr. Michael Fehlings
1200-1400 OMA Section on Neurosurgery Business Meeting, West Wing 4-430
1200-1400 Resident Luncheon with Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, West Wing, 5-400

AFTERNOON SESSION
Chairman: Dr. Fred Gentili
14:00-14:15 Opening Remarks, Announcement of the Connell and Gross Awards in NS Nursing, Announcement of the winner of the Horsey Prize
14:15-14:30 Dr. R. Willinsky, Endovascular treatment of cerebral aneurysms: results of the ISAT Trial
14:30-14:45 Dr. Shereen Ezzat, Medical management of endocrine active pituitary adenomas
14:45-15:00 Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, Neurosurgical management of endocrine active pituitary adenomas
15:00-15:15 Dr. Walter Kucharczyk, Intraoperative MRI at TWH- Where do we go from here?
15:15-15:30 Dr. James Drake, Death after late failure of third ventriculostomy in children
15:30-15:45 Dr. Paul Muller, Fluorescence guided resection of brain tumours in a rabbit model
15:45-16:00 Dr. Mark Bernstein, What makes clinical research ethical: A practical framework
16:00-17:00 Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Lecture, Professor Rudolf Fahlbusch, Functional Neuronavigation and Intraoperative MRI in Brain Tumours

NATIONAL/NORTH AMERICAN:


AO ASIF Comprehensive and Interactive Spine Courses, Sun Valley, Idaho, February 27-March 2, 2003

Advances in Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Skull Base and Cranial Nerves, Allegheny General Hospital, May 2-3, 2003

Second International Symposium on Cranial Nerves sponsored by the Allegheny General Hospital, Hilton Pittsburgh Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 12-16, 2003


Brain03 and BrainPET’03, Calgary, Alberta, June 29-July 3, 2003

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.

Dec. 6th, Head Injury IV

Dec. 13th, Head Injury V
Michael Schwartz “Concussion and Postconcussive Syndrome”
Henry Berry “Medico-legal Aspects of Head Injury”
Charles Tator “Sports Injury and Prevention of Head Injury”

Dec. 20th, CNS Infection and Adult Hydrocephalus
David McNeely
Michael Cusimano “Adult Hydrocephalus”
James Rutka, Video Presentation

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
December 6:30 p.m. Location and date to follow

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 17th, 2002, 0700 to 0800 hours, Room 1445, First Floor Roy Hill Wing.