FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
This year's Annual Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre Academic Lectureship took place on February 3rd, 2005. The invited keynote speaker was Dr Darell Bigner from the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr Bigner spoke on the latest trends in immunotherapy clinical trials and research. Please see attached photo below.

A hands-on course in epilepsy surgery was held Saturday February 12th, 2005 for the neurosurgery residents in the Program at the Surgical Skills Centre, Mt Sinai Hospital. Dr's Valiante and Rutka were the course instructors. Residents learned advanced approaches to epilepsy surgery including temporal lobectomy, corpus callosotomy, and peri-insular hemispherotomy. Please see attached photo below.

This year's annual Keith Visiting Professor was Dr Richard G Fessler from the University of Chicago, February 14-15, 2005. Dr Fessler helped to adjudicate over the Morley Prize awards presentations, and delivered 4 separate lectures on topics in his field of interest, minimally invasive spinal neurosurgery. The Scientific Symposia were organized by Dr's Eric Massicotte and Michael Fehlings. This year's Morley First Prize Award recipient was Sheila Singh, and runner-up award winner was Bradley Jacobs. Special thanks are given to those residents who presented research work outside the Morley Prize competition, and to those who presented interesting spinal cases to Dr Fessler. Please see the attached photo below of the residents with Dr Fessler.

IN MEMORIAM
Dwight Parkinson, Dr. F.R.C.S.(C) On Tuesday, February 1, 2005 Dwight
Dwight passed away peacefully, with family present, at the Grace Hospital. Dwight was born in Boise, Idaho on May 14, 1916. He attended Dartmouth College graduating in 1938. He attended McGill University in Montreal and obtained his degree in Medicine in 1941, and a Master of Science in Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota in 1949. His training was interrupted by the war where he served with distinction as a Battalion Surgeon with the 104th Division in France, Belgium and Holland. He rose to the rank of Captain and was awarded two bronze stars. Dwight completed his surgery residency at Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover New Hampshire in 1946 and his neurosurgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota from 1946 to 1949. He brought his young family to Winnipeg just before the great flood of 1950 and filled a need in Manitoba as the only Neurosurgeon for many years. He was certified F.R.C.S.(C) in 1951 and by the American Board of Neurological Surgery in 1952. Dr. Parkinson was appointed Chief, Section of Neurosurgery, Health Sciences Centre which encompassed the Winnipeg General Hospital, Children's Hospital, Rehabilitation Hospital, Women's Centre, and Psychiatric Hospital, and also held this position in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba from 1957 until 1981. His contributions to the Neurosurgery scene have been many over the years, most notably the practical Simultaneous Stereo AP and Lateral Rapid Serial Cerebral Angiography equipment, developed in conjunction with the Picker X-ray Company and Dr.A.E. Childe; the Neurosurgical Headholder and Cassette Changer providing Intraoperative Rapid Serial Angiography; his description and naming of the anastomotic arteries between the two parasellar portions of the internal carotid artery; and the description of the relationship of the cranial nerves in the parasellar region, The Triangular Space. He is perhaps best known for his approach to the Direct Repair of Carotid Cavernous Fistula with Preservation of the Carotid, a method which paved the way for further development. Dwight's teaching and research at the Anatomy Department of the University of Manitoba continued after his retirement from neurosurgery, right into the week of his death, during his 89th year. In addition to being the First President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society he has served as Past President for the Knowles School for Boys, Police and Pal, Winnipeg Medical Society, Winnipeg Medical Historical Society, Rehabilitation Hospital Staff, St. Charles Country Club, Manitoba Golf Association, Canadian Society of Neurological Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Manitoba Chapter; and former Governor for the Manitoba Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, as well as for the Royal Canadian Golf Association.

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Peter Dirks received the 2005 Royal College Medal Award in Surgery

Jim Rutka received a 1 year grant from Brainchild for his work entitled “Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Genetic Polymorphisms in Paediatric Brain Tumor Angiogenesis”.

Jim Rutka received a 5 year grant from the CIHR for his work entitled “Role of cytoskeletal GTPases in astrocytoma motility”.

Ab Guha was on the CIHR grant review panel: Feb 20-22, 2005. Ottawa
Andres Lozano was appointed to the International Executive Scientific Advisory Board, Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. 2005-2006

Andres Lozano has been appointed as Chair, Archives Committee, Movement Disorder Society. 2005-2007 and to the Congress Scientific Program Committee (CSPC), Movement Disorder Society. 2005-2006

Dr. Michael Fehlings has been appointed to the Board of Directors of ONE Spine, a non-profit organization whose mission is to optimize and unify education and research among neurological and orthopaedic spine surgeons in order to improve patient care.

Dr. Michael Fehlings is cited in the Who’s Who Medical Sciences Education (WWMSE).

Dr. Michael Fehlings and Dr. Alexander Velumian won the 1st place poster award in the Basic Science category from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for their poster entitled "Unlocking the puzzle of ischemic spinal cord injury: investigations of oligodendrocyte-myelin-axonal signalling" which was presented at the Heart and Stroke Clinical Update conference in December 2004. This award included prize money in the amount of $600.

Dr. Baylis Vivek Joseph, a Spine Fellow for 2005-06, is the Recipient of the 2005 Sonntag International Fellowship Award of US$5,000 from the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, which will be presented at the Annual meeting, March 11, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sheila Singh won first prize for the 2005 Thomas P. Morley Neurosurgical Resident competition. February 15th, 2005


PUBLICATIONS


Bernstein M: Immigrants - More is better for Canada. The Weekly Voice January 28 - February 3, 2005


Ghassan SS, Fehlings MG, Bouclauos CH. Medical and surgical management of pyogenic and nonpyogenic spondylodiscitis: Part I. Contemporary Neurosurgery 26(19):1-6, 2004

Ghassan SS, Fehlings MG, Bouclauos CH. Medical and surgical management of pyogenic and nonpyogenic spondylodiscitis: Part II. Contemporary Neurosurgery 26(20):1-6, 2004

Ghassan SS, Fehlings MG, Bouclauos CH. Medical and surgical management of pyogenic and nonpyogenic spondylodiscitis: Part III. Contemporary Neurosurgery 26(21):1-6, 2004

Ghassan SS, Fehlings MG, Bouclauos CH. Medical and surgical management of pyogenic and nonpyogenic spondylodiscitis: Part IV. Contemporary Neurosurgery 26(22):1-4, 2004


Kwan CL, Diamant NE, Mikula K, Davis KD: Characteristics of Rectal Perception are Altered in Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Pain,113:160-171, 2005


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Andres Lozano was an Invited International Speaker at the Pre-Olympic International Neurosurgical Winter Meeting. “A re-evaluation of neurosurgery for psychiatric disorders.” Sestriere, Italy. February 21, 2005

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Annual Meeting, Wailea, Hawaii, "Brain Tumor Stem Cells: Seeds of Brain Tumor Growth" January 31, 2005

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the Tandem Bone Marrow Transplant Meetings, Keystone, Colorado, "Identification of Brain Cancer Stem Cells", February 11, 2005.

Jim Drake attended the ASPN Meeting, Four Seasons Ballroom, Maui, Hawaii 1/ Moderator: Scientific Session III: Hydrocephalus. 2/ Abstract Presentation "Late Rapid Deterioration after Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy". 3/ Closing Remarks. February 2, 2005


Michael Fehlings was Co-Chairman of the AO ASIF Advanced concepts in Management of Spinal Disorders, Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID, Feb. 3-6, 2005:

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at Update on Studies re. Cervical Myelopathy, AOSpine North America Scientific Committee meeting. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology of Spinal Cord Injury February 14-15, 2005

Michael Fehlings was Co-Chairman Pittsburgh Neurotrauma Senior Residents Forum, Pittsburgh, PA February 26-27, 2005

RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Faculty vs. residents hockey match Sunday, April 3rd, 2005, 5 to 6 p.m., Varsity Arena.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
With regard to experimental design, which of the following statements is/are true?

A. The control group is the group chosen to receive no therapy.
B. A blinded procedure is one where neither the patient nor physician knows what therapy is administered.
C. Randomization is a method to avoid observer bias.
D. Placebos are medications of different action than the test substance.

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (January NEUROSURGE Volume 6; Issue 5)
The answers are 1-E, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-A
A lesion situated in the caudal aspect of the right dorsomedial pons (E) will affect the nucleus of the cranial nerve VI along with surrounding tissue. This will invariably include the fibers of cranial nerve VII which wrap around the nucleus of cranial nerve VI. As a result, there will be a loss of facial expression on the right side because cranial nerve VII innervates the muscles of facial expression, along with an inability to move the right eye laterally because cranial nerve VI innervates the lateral rectus muscle. When cranial nerve VI is involved in isolation there is failure of abduction of the ipsilateral eye (A).

Cranial nerve III innervates all the rectus muscles except the lateral rectus. Therefore a patient sustaining a lesion of this nerve will be able to move the eye on the affected side medially (B).

The fourth cranial nerve (C) innervates the superior oblique muscle which moves the eye downward from a medial position. This movement most often occurs when one walks down a flight of stairs.

A lesion of the right medial longitudinal fasciculus (D) will disrupt axons that arise from the nucleus of cranial nerve VI of the left side that cross over and ascend to the oculomotor complex. Thus, this lesion would produce a dissociation of horizontal eye movements in which gazing to the left would result in a paresis of right ocular adduction together with monocular horizontal nystagmus in the left (abducting) eye.

PDF OF THE MONTH
In this PDF, Mark Bernstein’s bold and pioneering work on outpatient craniotomy is highlighted in Oncology Exchange 3:20-23, 2004

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic3177.htm

At this web address, a review of current procedures used in the surgical management of patients with epilepsy is described. As the residents in the Program have just finished their block curriculum sessions on epilepsy, and a recent hands-on course in surgical epilepsy procedures, this would be timely review material for all.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS
Department of Surgery University Rounds, Palmer Lecture, Friday, March 4th, 2005 @ 7:30 a.m., Toronto Western Hospital, Auditorium. Dr. Steven A. Curley, Professor, Surgical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Texas.

Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences, June 14-18, 2005, Ottawa, Ontario.

Gallie Day, May 6, 2005. This year’s lecturer is Dr. David Herndon.
Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Boston, Massachusetts, October 8-13, 2005. Abstracts can now be submitted to http://www.abstrak.com/core/cns2005

NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children

March 4, 2005

Dr. Jim Drake: Hydrocephalus I: Shunts 
Dr. Sheila Singh: Split-cord malformation 
Dr. Sami Khoshyoorn: Intraventricular hemorrhage 
Dr. Jay Riva-Cambrin: Scalp and skull tumours

March 11, 2005

Dr. James Rutka: Encephalocele 
Dr. Jim Drake: Hydrocephalus II: Endoscopy 
Dr. Robin Humphreys: Shunt complications

March 18, 2005

Dr. Peter Dirks: Myelomeningocele 
Dr. Mandeep Tamber: Embryology of neural tube defects 
Dr. Robin Humphreys: Lipomyelomeningocele, dermal sinus tracts and the tethered cord

March 25, 2005

Cancelled, Good Friday

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, March 31st, 2005, 0700 to 0800 hours, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 22nd, 2005, 0700 to 0800 hours, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children.