FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Over the next few months, there will be several events to look forward to in the Division of Neurosurgery. They can be enumerated as follows:

1) Botterell Visiting Professorship, Dr. Ed. Laws, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, December 5th-6th, 2005. Special thanks to Fred Gentili for organizing an outstanding program this year.

2) Faculty versus residents hockey match, Saturday December 10th, 2005, 8 pm, Varsity Arena.

3) First annual Division of Neurosurgery Curling Bonspiel, Monday December 12th, 2005, Leaside Curling Club, 8 pm. Thanks to Adrian Laxton for organizing this event.

4) Neuro-Endoscopy Course, Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Surgical Skills Centre. Jim Drake is the Course Director.

5) Dr. Eelco Wijdicks is the 2006 Marshall Lecturer hosted this year by the Department of Anaesthesia in conjunction with the Division of Neurosurgery. Title of Talk: “Brain Death”, Thursday, January 26th, 2006

6) The 2006 Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre Lecture will be held on Thursday, January 26th, 2006 @ 4 p.m, Sick Kids Auditorium, Dr Web Cavenee, Professor of Molecular Genetics, Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, California.
7) This year’s CaRM’s candidates will be visiting the Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto on Friday, January 27th and Saturday, January 28th, 2006. Further information to follow.

8) Thoracic and Lumbar Spine Fixation Course, Friday, February 17th – Monday February 20th, 2006 at the Surgical Skills Centre. Eric Massicotte is the Course Director.

As you can see, there are many events which add to the academic curriculum of our residents and faculty, so please mark your calendars now for these events which will take place this winter.

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Richard Perrin has been elevated to the rank of Commandeur of the Confrererie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, the world’s largest, and most prestigious Burgundy Wine Connoisseurs Association.

Michael Fehlings, Cian O’Kelly and Greg Hawryluk received an AO Trauma grant for their work on managing anticoagulation in patients with CNS hemorrhage and high thromboembolic risk.

Moji Hodaie received a grant from Medtronic Neurological for her work on “Evaluation of Effective Stimulation Parameters for Seizure Control in Rats with Thalamic Deep Brain Stimulation Using a Pilocarpine Seizure Model”.

Dr. Charles Tator was presented with the Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Award of Recognition at the Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference. This award was presented in recognition of his contribution to the field of injury prevention over more than 30 years and his dedication in reducing injuries to Canadians. Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 6-8, 2005.

Ab Guha was present at a Foundation Stone ceremony of the Institute of Neurological Sciences. A 175 bed non-profit neurology/neurosurgery hospital Ab Guha’s group is building in Kolkata, India. November 15, 2005

Jim Rutka has been nominated for the position of Secretary, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

PUBLICATIONS


Bernstein M: Rock and roll journey connects father and daughter. The Medical Post, Volume 41, Number 39, page 26-27, 2005

Colin Honish, Fahrad Pirouzmand. The Reliability of Ultrasound Measurements of Carotid Stenosis Compared to MRA and DSA. The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences Volume 32, Number 4 / November 2005


Kamnasaran, D, Guha, A. Expression of GATA6 in the human and mouse central nervous system Brain Res Dev Brain Res. Sep 5, 2005

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Jim Rutka was the Keynote Speaker at the 4th Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology, “Molecular Diagnosis, Targeting and Management of Pediatric Brain Tumors”. Taipei, Taiwan, November 4-6, 2005

Abhaya Kulkarni was an Invited Visiting Professor in the Department of Neurosciences/Neurosurgery, Medical University of South Carolina, “Quality of life outcomes in pediatric neurosurgery”. Charleston, SC, November 2-4, 2005

Andres Lozano was the 3rd Annual Michael T. Richard Visiting Professor in Neurosurgery at Ottawa Hospital, “Frontiers in neuroscience. Neurosurgery meets psychiatry” Ottawa, Ontario. November 4, 2005

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker. Hispanoforum: “Improving brain function.” Toronto, Ont. Nov 22, 2005

David Houlden presented “Serial SSEP studies for predicting outcome in comatose patients with head injuries” at the National Neurotrauma Society Symposium, Washington, DC, November 10-11, 2005

Fred Gentili was Visiting Professor at the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Louisiana. Shreveport, LA. November 8-9, 2005.

Paul Muller was an Invited Speaker at the 10TH World Congress of the International Photodynamic Association. 1/ Survival Results in a Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial of Photofrin-PDT in the Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Cerebral Glioblastoma Multiforme. 2/ Preclinical Feasibility of Metronomic Photodynamic Therapy using 5-Aminolevulinic Acid Induced Protoporphyrin IX in a Rabbit Brain Tumor Model. 3/ Facial Neuropathy after Intracranial Photofrin-PDT for Malignant Supratentorial Gliomas * a Report of 2 Cases. 4/ Score [KS] and Neurological Scores [NS] in Patients with Recurrent Malignant Gliomas Treated with Photofrin-PDT. 5/ Photodynamic therapy of Brain tumors * the state of the art. Munich, Germany June 22-25, 2005.

Michael Fehlings was the Cushing Visiting Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital, “Repair and regeneration of the injured spinal cord: From molecule to man”. Baltimore, MD November 3, 2005

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, “Enhanced differentiation of adult neural stem cells to oligodendrocytes after transplantation into injured spinal cord promotes remyelination and functional recovery”. “Washington, DC, November 12-16, 2005

Ab Guha was a Guest Speaker at the Neurofibromatosis Society of Ontario: 20th Anniversary, “NF1 and NF2”. October 29th, 2005.

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the Hackensack Medical Center, New Jersey:
Neurooncology Update, “Aberrant Signaling Complexes in Human Astrocytomas”. November 11, 2005

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the 50th Anniversary of Neuroscience in West Bengal. 1/ “Molecular Biology of Gliomas”. 2/ “Management of Peripheral Nerve Tumors”. India, November 18-20, 2005

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker for the Plenary Session on Brain Tumors and Stem Cells at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting, "Purification of human brain tumor initiating cells" in Washington DC, November 16, 2005.

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at a Neurosurgery Symposium at Massachusetts General Hospital, "Stem Cells and Brain Cancer", "Prospective isolation of human brain tumor initiating cells” Boston, MA, November 17, 2005.

RESIDENTS’ CORNER

Born to Rebecca and Douglas Cook, a baby boy “Douglas James”, 9 lbs., November 9th, 2005

Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto Hockey Match, Faculty vs. Residents, Varsity Arena, Saturday, December 10th, 2005 @ 8 p.m. Come out and cheer on your favourite team.

Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, Curling Bonspiel. Leaside Curling Club, 1073a Millwood Road, Toronto, Monday, December 12th, 2005 @ 8 p.m.

Neuro-Endoscopy Course, Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Surgical Skills Centre. Jim Drake is the Course Director.

Thoracic and Lumbar Spine Fixation Course, Friday, February 17th – Monday February 20th, 2006 at the Surgical Skills Centre. Eric Massicotte is the Course Director. Anyone interested, please let Stephanie know.

Dr. Eelco Wijdicks is the 2006 Marshall Lecturer hosted this year by the Department of Anaesthesia in conjunction with the Division of Neurosurgery. Title of Talk: “Brain Death”, Room: TBA, @ 5 p.m., Thursday, January 26th, 2006

The 2006 BTRC Lecture will be held on Thursday, January 26th, 2006 @ 4 p.m, Sick Kids Auditorium, Dr Web Cavenee, Professor of Molecular Genetics, Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, California.

This year’s CaRM’s candidates will be visiting the Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto on Friday, January 27th and Saturday, January 28th, 2006

The 2005 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship will be held on December 5-6, 2005 at the Toronto Western Hospital. The guest lecturer is Dr. Edward Laws, Professor of
Neurosurgery, Clinical Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Virginia School of Medicine. The Horsey Resident Prize Competition for Clinical Research will be held during this event, and residents working on a clinical research project are encouraged to participate in the competition. The competition consists of 2 prizes, the 1st Prize is $1,000 and the 2nd Prize is $500. The judging criteria are based on a 3 page extended abstract and the oral presentation. The guidelines are attached. Abstracts must be submitted no later than Monday, November 28th.

The McKenzie Prize for Basic Neuroscience Research and the McKenzie Prize for Clinical Neuroscience Research. Deadline for submissions: December 31, 2005 (www.ccns.org)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
To which of the following does the term all or none response most closely relate?
A. The resting potential.
B. Increased conductance-presynaptic potentials.
C. Increased conductance-postsynaptic potentials.
D. The generator potential.
E. The action potential.

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (OCTOBER NEUROSURGE Volume 7; Issue 2)

(A patient complains of constant headaches involving the frontal region. Examination reveals increased intraocular pressure. The pupil is dilated but at this examination there is little evidence of visual defects. Which is the likely diagnosis?
A. Cataracts.
B. A tumor of the visual cortex or lateral geniculate nucleus.
C. A tumor at the base of the brain impinging upon the optic chiasm.
D. Glaucoma.
E. Color blindness.)

The answer is D. Glaucoma is a condition of elevated intraocular pressure caused (perhaps by infection) when debris accumulated in the spaces that lead to Schlemm’s canal. If not treated, it can rapidly lead to blindness, because the pressure can block conduction along the optic nerve. In addition, glaucoma can be associated with frontal headaches; the diagnosis can be confirmed by measuring the intraocular pressure.

PDF OF THE MONTH
Children and television tipovers. J Neurosurgery (Pediatrics 3) 103: 219-222, 2005. In this article by Yahya et al., the Sick Kids experience with television tipovers is described in detail. These injuries are potentially preventable. And efforts are underway to inform parents of the importance of securing TVs in the household to avoid the injuries
which can have devastating consequences. Dr Raafat Yahya was a fellow at Sick Kids at the time that this series was put together. He is currently a neurosurgeon at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

The Doe Report. At this website, several intriguing posters regarding central nervous system anatomy are presented. Residents are encouraged to visit this website to acquaint themselves with the anatomical guides found here. Courtesy of Amro Al-Habib.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Surgery University Rounds, Friday December 2, 2005 at 07:30 a.m. in the MaRS Auditorium, Lower Ground Floor, MaRS Discovery District, 101 College Street.

Mr. Jonathan Beard, Sheffield Vascular Institute “Surgical Life After Age 65: Changing Laws & Changing Times”.

19th Annual Marshall Lecture, Hosted by the Department of Anaesthesia. Dr. Eelco Wijdicks, Chair, Division of Critical Care Neurology, Mayo Clinic “Validation of a New Coma Scale”. Thursday, January 26th, 2006 @ 5 p.m.


Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences, Montreal, Quebec, June 13-17, 2006. Abstract Deadline: January 9, 2006


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

Spine Block II/Head Injury
Friday, December 2nd
TOPIC: Lumbar Spine Degenerative Disease I
0900-1000 Dr. Amro Al-Habib: Lumbar spinal stenosis
1000-1030 Break
1030-1130 Dr. Paul Kongkham: Treatment option for lumbar spinal stenosis
1130-1200 Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case presentations

Monday, December 5th
2005 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Edward R. Laws, Professor of Neurosurgery, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Virginia School of Medicine
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing, 2nd Floor, Room 401
0900-1130 Residents’ Rounds with Professor Ed Laws, Case Presentations by University of Toronto Neurosurgical Residents
1330-1600 Resident Clinical Research Presentations for the 2005 William J. Horsey Prizes

Tuesday, December 6th
2005 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing, 2nd Floor, Room 401
0900-1700 Mini-symposia:
1. Current management of pituitary adenomas
2. Minimally invasive techniques in neurosurgery
Lectures given by local faculty and invited guests

Friday, December 9th
TOPIC: Lumbar Spine Degenerative Disease II
0900-1000 Dr. Melfort Boulton: Lumbar herniated disc
1000-1030 Break
1030-1130 Dr. Cian O’Kelly: Cauda Equina: Evidence based medicine
1130-1200 Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case presentations

Friday, December 16th
TOPIC: Cervical Spine Degenerative Disease I
0900-1000 Dr. Douglas Cook: Natural history of cervical spine degeneration
1000-1030 Break
1030-1130 Dr. Dimetre Serletis: Surgical intervention of cervical degeneration
1130-1200 Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case presentations

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, December, 2005, Dinner Meeting, Location TBA.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 13, 2005, Room 6711 @ 7 a.m.