FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
On Friday February 10th, the Division of Neurosurgery underwent an Internal Review conducted by Dr Bart Harvey. I am pleased to report to you that there are no major issues that will prevent us from achieving full accreditation of our program during the Royal College Review to take place next year. Special thanks to Chris Wallace, Sandi Amaral, and all the residents who participate in the Review to make it so successful this year. Following the Internal Review, the residents went to the Surgical Skills Centre at Mt Sinai Hospital to participate in a hands-on Neuroplating Course hosted by Lorenz (see photo below).

The 30th Annual Keith Visiting Professorship took place February 13-14 at the Toronto Western Hospital. Dr Webster Pilcher, Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Rochester, was the invited guest professor. Mike Tymianski and Taufik Valiante organized a superb program around the topics of neuroscience research and epilepsy. The first day was hi-lited by presentations for the Morley Prize in basic science research. Brad Jacobs won the first prize award, and Karim Mukhida and Charles Matouk tied for the second prize award. Special thanks to Michael Fehlings for presiding over these and all other resident research presentations. Following a splendid afternoon of basic neuroscience presentations by faculty from the Universities of Rochester and Toronto, the annual Keith dinner was held at Spendido’s (see photo below). On February 14th, the residents were instructed by Dr’s Pilcher, Valiante and Wennberg on the management of patients with epilepsy (see photo below). In the afternoon, Dr Pilcher presented his Royal College Lecture on temporal lobe surgery and memory outcomes.
On February 24th, Dr Amin Kassam, Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh was City-Wide visiting professor at Sunnybrook and Women’s Health Sciences Centre. Dr Kassam presented a spectacular lecture on endoneurosurgery for residents and faculty. Later that morning, he did a cadaver dissection illustrating the anatomy of endonasal neurosurgery for the residents. That evening, Dr Kassam and his wife Greta were hosted by Mike and Judy Schwartz at Rosebud Restaurant (see photo below).

Finally, we have just learned our new CaRMS matches for this year beginning July 1, 2006. Four new residents have been accepted into the program. They are: David Cadotte (U of T), Suneil Kalia (U of T), Victor Yang (U of T), and Carlo Santaguida (McGill). I will have more to say on these 4 outstanding recruits shortly.

HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS
Peter Dirks has become a member of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons.

Michael Fehlings has been appointed as Chair-Elect for the Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Brad Jacobs won this year’s K.G. McKenzie Memorial Prize for Basic Neuroscience Research for his paper entitled “p63 is an Essential Proapoptotic Protein during Neural Development”. His paper will be presented on the occasion of the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences meeting in Montreal June 2006.

Sarah Woodrow won this year’s K.G. McKenzie Memorial Prize for the best Clinical Neuroscience paper entitled: “Validation of Objective Performance Measures During a Pedicle Cannulation Task”. Her paper will also be presented at the CCNS annual meeting in Montreal in June 2006.

Peter Dirks was quoted in The New York Times, February 21st, 2006 in an article entitled “Stem Cells may be Key to Cancer”.

Greg Hawryluk is the recipient of this year’s Codman Fellowship in Neurotrauma and Critical Care.

Toshitaka Seki (Postdoctoral Fellow with Michael Fehlings) has won the 2006 Mayfield Basic Science Award from the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves for his project “Development of an animal model of post-traumatic syringomyelia associated with adhesive arachnoiditis: implications for an enhanced understanding of the pathobiology and for the development of novel therapeutic approaches”.

Bill Tucker has been elected as a neurosurgery specialist for the Canadian Medical Protective Association.
Michael Cusimano is a co-applicant on a CIHR grant for work entitled “The fractionation and localization of attentional and language processing in the cerebellum”

PUBLICATIONS


Bernstein M: Married life is a highway. The Medical Post February 3, 2006,


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Julian Spears was an Invited Speaker at the University of West Indies Mona for the ”2006 Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium”. 1/ Endovascular management of intracranial aneurysms; 2/ Role of embolization of brain AVMs. Kingston, Jamaica. February 16-17, 2006

Moj Hodaie was an Invited Speaker at the 4th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation. “Neuromodulation for management of intractable epilepsy”. Hong Kong Feb 12-16, 2006.

Chris Wallace was an Invited Speaker at the 9th Joint Annual Meeting of the AANS/ CNS and ASITN. “Experience of a North American Center in ISAT”. Orlando, Florida, Feb 17 - 20, 2006.

Ab Guha was a Visiting Professor at the Emory University School of Medicine: Winship Cancer Institute: Elkin Lecture: “Genetically Engineered Murine (GEM) Models of Gliomas: Study of Genetic Interactions and Discovery of Novel Glioma Genes”. Atlanta, Georgia, February 17, 2006

Ab Guha was invited to sit on the CIHR- HPA Grant Panel. Ottawa, February 19-20, 2006

Peter Dirks was invited to an American Association for Cancer Research Think Tank on Cancer Stem Cells. He spoke on ”Cancer Stem Cells: Identification and Assays". Lansdowne, Virginia. February 1-3, 2006

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Guest at the: Spine Trauma Study Group, STASCIS update “Surgical treatment strategies for spinal cord injury” Vancouver, BC January 12-14, 2006

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the: 18th Annual Ski with the SpineCenter, “Revision strategies for cervical arthroplasty”. Whistler, BC January 14-17, 2006
Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Neurology City-Wide Grand Rounds, Toronto Western Hospital. “Functional neurosurgery to ameliorate function in pathological brain circuits.” January 27, 2006

Andres Lozano was an Invited International Speaker at the 14th Annual Meeting, Rachidian Society. “Advances in Functional Neurosurgery.” Kona, Hawaii. February 7, 2006

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the University of Toronto, Division of Rheumatology, Intracity Conference with Dr. Simon Carette: “An Evidence-based Approach to the Management of Cervical Radiculopathy”. February 7th, 2006

Michael Fehlings was a Visiting Professor at the 8th Annual Orthopedic Spine Conference, Medical College of Georgia. 1/ “Repair and Regeneration of the Injured Spinal cord from Molecule to Man”; 2/ “Cervical Myelopathy – Current Concepts and Future Direction”. Georgia, February 16-18, 2006

RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Surgical Investigators In-Training. Call for Submissions to the Committee for the Fundamental Surgical Problems, Division of Education, American College of Surgeons. Abstract Submissions from November 1, 2005 – March 1, 2006.

Thoracic and Lumbar Spine Fixation Course, Friday, June 19-22, 2006 at the Surgical Skills Centre. Eric Massicotte is the Course Director. Anyone interested, please let Stephanie know. Everyone needs to sign up for each of the days they are interested in..

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
A 68 year old man went to a sleep clinic after he had repeated episodes of loud snoring during sleep, coupled with sudden periods of restlessness and cessation of breathing. After extensive analysis, the physicians concluded that the patient’s problem was not a result of obstructive sleep. Instead, it was judged that this condition reflected central sleep apnoea due to loss of chemoreceptor sensitivity of the neuronal control mechanisms governing respiration. Which of the following sites within the CNS is most closely associated with these effects?
A. Dorsal horn of the thoracic spinal cord.
B. Reticular formation of the medulla?
C. Midbrain aqueductal grey?
D. Hippocampal formation.
E. Border of occipital and parietal lobes.

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (JANUARY NEUROSURGE Volume 7; Issue 5)
(A brain MRI scan taken from a 6 month old baby, revealed that while the overall size of the cerebral cortex was normal, the size of the pyramidal tracts was considerably smaller than normal. What is the most likely explanation for this defect?)
A. Reduction in numbers of cortical neurons giving rise to pyramidal tract fibres.
A. Reduction in the numbers of synaptic contacts made by pyramidal tract neurons.
B. Reduction in the extent of myelin found on pyramidal tract neurons.
C. Reduction in the amount of neurotransmitter released by pyramidal tract neurons.
D. Reduction in the number of glial cells attached to pyramidal tract neurons.)

The answer is C. Extensive myelination occurs in postnatal development. The failure of the pyramidal tracts to form myelin would account for the reduction in their size. In this particular situation, the size of the cerebral cortex was approximately normal, suggesting that there was no significant decrease in cortical cells. Variation in the numbers of synaptic contacts, transmitter formation, and glial cells would not account for reduction in the size of the pyramidal tract.

PDF OF THE MONTH

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.dextroscope.com/
A new 3-dimensional neurosurgical planning tool can be viewed by going to this website. Test sites are being installed in North America. Jim Rutka and Chris Wallace will be inquiring if this work-station should come to Toronto.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Born to Susan Archer and Michael Taylor on February 13th, a baby boy Andrew Thomas, 8 lb. 12 oz.

Resident vs Faculty Hockey Games: 1) Saturday, March 11th, 10 p.m. at Forest Hill Arena; and 2) Saturday, April 1st, 8 p.m. at Varsity Arena. Please contact Stephanie at 416-813-8441 or Stephanie.neilson@sickkids.ca if you wish to play.

Division of Neurosurgery Visiting Professor, Dr. Necmettin Pamir, from Marmara University in Istanbul Turkey. Friday, March 17th, 2006. 7:00 - 8:00 a.m., Room 131, Banting Institute,

City Wide Rounds. Professor Michael Bliss, Department of History, University of Toronto. “Insights into the Research Behind “Harvey Cushing: A Life in Surgery’’. March 24th, 2006, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. (These rounds will be held at The Hospital for Sick Children, Main Auditorium)


Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences, Montreal, Quebec. June 13-17, 2006.

AANS/CNS Section on Pain Bi-Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., April 21, 2006


8th International Neurotrauma Symposium, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, May 21-25, 2006


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

**Friday, March 3rd**
T.B.A.

**Friday, March 10th**
Radiobiology
Dr. Norm Laperriere: Radiation treatment of adults with CNS malignancies.
Dr. Phil Davey: Principles of Radiobiology
Dr. Steve McCluskey: Radiation induced tumors
Dr. Sarah Woodrow: Radiation necrosis, recognition and treatment
Dr. Michael Schwartz: Radiosurgery

**Friday, March 17, 2006**
Visiting Professor – Dr. Necmettin Pamir, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
***0700 – 0800 Lecture, Room 131, The Banting Institute***
0900 – 1200 Lecture to residents followed by case presentations

**Friday, March 24, 2006**
City-Wide Rounds – Professor Michael Bliss, University of Toronto
0700 – 0800 Main Auditorium, The Hospital for Sick Children
“Insights into the research behind “Harvey Cushing: A Life in Surgery””
0900 – 1200 T.B.A.

**Friday, March 31, 2006**
Dr. Mark Bernstein: Ethics: Introducing Surgical Innovation
HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, April 13, 2006, North Conference Room @ 7 a.m.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 7th, 2006, Room 6711 @ 7 a.m.