FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

The final issue of Neurosurge for this academic year must begin with the announcement of our success at the Royal College Accreditation Review of the Neurosurgery Program. We have received official notice that our program has been granted Full Approval with no significant weaknesses. Special thanks are given to Chris Wallace, Program Director, Sandi Amaral, Stephanie Neilson, and the entire Residency Program Committee (RPC) for all their efforts to make this review so successful. The next Royal College Review of Neurosurgery will take place in 2013.

Congratulations to Sheila Singh, Steve McCluskey, and Amro Al-Habib, who have passed the Royal College Examinations in Neurosurgery this month.

On June 9th, 2007, an Academic Year End Celebration for the Division of Neurosurgery was held at Canoe Restaurant. Many awards were given to the faculty and the residents. David and Maureen Rowed were honoured for their many years of service and contributions to neurosurgery at Sunnybrook (see below). Please see attached some photos taken during the event.

Dr Eric Massicotte organized this year’s hands-on spine course June 9-13, 2007, at the Surgical Skills Centre, Mt Sinai Hospital. Several neurosurgery residents took the course, and learned a wide variety of complex spine fixation procedures. Please see attached a photograph taken during the course. Thanks to Eric for his hard work in implementing the course!
As upcoming events, please remember the Chairman’s Annual Welcome Party for new PGY1’s Saturday July 7th, 2007; the Annual Golf Tournament, Sunday August 26th, 2007; and the Chairman’s Annual Canoe Trip, September 7 – 9th, 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy summer.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:
Yet another outstanding year has come to a close for the Division of Neurosurgery. In this final issue of Neurosurge for the 2006-2007 academic year, the major accomplishments and events of our Division can be enumerated as follows:

1. 1st Annual Chairman’s Canoe Trip Visiting Professor, Mr. Michael Carter, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, England., The French River, September 8-10, 2007
2. 34th Lougheed Microvascular Course, September 25-29, 2006
4. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, Toronto Western Hospital, Dr. Warren Selman, Department of Neurosurgery, The Case School of Medicine, Cleveland, October 27, 2006
5. 2006 Botterell Professorship, Dr. Ziya Gokaslan, Department of Neurosurgery, John Hopkins University Medical Center, October 30-31, 2006
6. City Wide Rounds, Sick Kids Hospital, Dr Mark Bernstein, Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, “The Voices of Neurosurgeons”, November 24th, 2007
7. Twentieth Annual Marshall Lectureship, Dr. Sean Grady, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania, January 18th, 2007
8. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, St. Michael’s Hospital, Dr. Jon Robertson, Department of Neurosurgery, The University of Tennessee, February 16, 2007
9. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, The Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. David Jimenez, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, March 30th, 2007
10. 2007 Keith Professorship, Dr. Andrew Kaye, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Melbourne, Australia, April 9-10, 2007
11. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, Toronto Western Hospital, Dr. Anil Nanda, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Louisiana, Shreveport, April 27, 2006
12. Visiting Professor, Dr Jonathan Finlay, Head of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, May 10-11, 2007
13. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Dr. Geoffrey Manley, Department of Neurosurgery, UCSF, May 18, 2007
14. 2007 E. Bruce Hendrick Lectureship, The Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Rick Abbott, Department of Neurosurgery, Montefiore Medical Center, New York, May 25, 2007
15. 2007 Gallie Day Award: Lister Prize recipient, Dr. Michael Fehlings
16. CCNS 2007 K.G. McKenzie Prize in Basic Neuroscience Research, Dr. Karim Mukhida
17. CCNS 2007 KG McKenzie Prize in Clinical Neuroscience Research, Dr. Cian O’Kelly
18. Number of publications by neurosurgery faculty and residents = 144
19. Number of New Grant Awards, Faculty = 23
20. Number of New Fellowship awards, Resident = 9
21. Number of Visiting Professorships by Faculty = 145
22. Horsey Prize Winners: 1st Prize - Dr. Scellig Stone; 2nd Prize – Dr. Amro Al-Habib
23. Morley Prize Winners: 1st Prize - Dr. Karim Mukhida; 2nd Prize - Dr. Charles Matouk
24. Hudson Teaching Awards: Dr. Eric Massicotte and Dr. Demitre Serletis
25. Warren Ho Memorial Scholarship: Dr. Sarah Woodrow
26. New Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada: Dr. Amro Al-Habib, Dr. Steven McCluskey, and Dr. Sheila Singh
27. New Faculty Appointments: Dr. Loch Macdonald, Division Head, St. Michael’s Hospital; Dr. Julian Spears, St. Michael’s Hospital, and Dr. Nicolas Phan, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre
28. Retirement: Dr. David Rowed, Division of Neurosurgery, Sunnybrook Medical Centre

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Dave Rowed retires from active practice in neurosurgery at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. Dave received his BA and MD from the University of Western Ontario (UWO). He did his neurosurgical training at UWO before embarking on fellowships with Sean Mullan at the University of Chicago in 1972, and with Brian Jennett in Glasgow in 1974. Dave was Head of Neurosurgery at Sunnybrook from 1986-1997, and became Professor of Neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery in 2006. Dave’s clinical interests have been in the fields of CV surgery, acoustic neuromas, and neurophysiological monitoring. He has had over 60 publications and 20 book chapters. He has been a consistently outstanding teacher in the Division of Neurosurgery. His career in neurosurgery was recognized and hi-lited at the Academic Year End Celebration June 9th, 2007.

Greg Hawryluk will serve as Neurosurgery Resident representative to the Canadian Federation of Neurological Sciences, 2007-2009.

Ab Guha received a grant from Schering-Plough Virtual National Bank

Michael Taylor was appointed to the Peer Review Panel J (Pathology and Tumor Markers) at the National Cancer Institute of Canada

Michael Fehlings was awarded a 5-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for his project, “Investigation and treatment of traumatic axonal dysfunction after spinal cord injury”.

Charles Tator has served as Chair of the Canadian Brain and Nerve Health Coalition (CBANHC) which has released a document on “The Burden of Neurological Diseases,
Disorders, and Injuries in Canada”. The document was released at the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Meeting in Edmonton, June 22, 2007.

The following neurosurgical faculty and residents took part this year in the program of the CNSF meeting:


Karim Mukhida – K.G. McKenzie Prize in Basic Neuroscience Research. “Enhancement of sensorimotor behavioural recovery in parkinsonian rats with a multitar get basal ganglia dopaminergic and GABAergic transplantation strategy”.

Andres Lozano. Contemporary neurosurgical approaches for psychiatric disorders.
Charles Tator. The Burden of Neurological Diseases, Disorders and Injuries in Canada.
Ab Kulkarni. Hydrocephalus.
Dimetre Serletis, Mark Bernstein. A prospective study of awake craniotomy used routinely and non-selectively for supratentorial tumors.
Greg Hawryluk, Michael Cusimano. The role of recombinant activated factor VII in neurosurgery: hope or hype?
Mark Bernstein. Neurosurgery patients knowledge and feelings about the role of residents in their care: A qualitative case study.
David Houlden, David Rowed, Michael Schwartz, Mahmood Fazl, Farad Pirouzmand. Transient SSEP change can detect iatrogenic spinal cord injury during spine surgery.
Paul Kongkham, Paul Northcott, Michael Taylor, Jim Rutka. A combined epigenetic and genetic genome-wide screen identifies SPINT2 as a novel tumour suppressor gene in medulloblastoma.
Michael Fehlings. The frequency and clinical impact of hyperglycemia after acute spinal cord injury: a controlled cohort study with molecular examination of human spinal cord tissue.

PUBLICATIONS


Parr AM, Tator CH. Intrathecal epidermal growth factor and fibroblast growth factor-2 exacerbate meningeal proliferative lesions associated with intrathecal catheters. Neurosurgery. 2007 May;60(5):926-33; discussion 926-33.


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Ab Guha was invited to attend the NIH: ZRG1 F09 Study section, Seattle, June 11, 2007
Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the Childhood Tumor Foundation Annual Meeting. “Surgical Management of Dermal, Plexiform and Malignant Peripheral NF1 Associated Nerve Tumors”. Park City, June 9, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the University of Barcelona, Department of Cellular Biology and Pathology. “Mouse Models in Gliomas”. Barcelona, Spain. June 18, 2007

Moji Hodaie was an Invited Speaker at the International Society for Radiosurgery. “Dosimetry and early outcomes in radiosurgery for trigeminal neuralgia”. San Francisco, June 2007


Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the Quebec/New Jersey Stem Cell Workshop. “Brain Tumor Stem Cells”. Montreal, Quebec, June 4, 2007.

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the 4th IRCC International Cancer Conference. “Brain Tumor Stem Cells: Defining their Ground State”. Torino, Italy, June 9, 2007.

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the Catholic University. “Brain Tumor Stem Cells: Looking Ahead to Targeted Therapy”. Rome, Italy, June 11, 2007.

Michael Taylor was an Invited Speaker at the British Neuro-Oncology Society Annual Meeting. Charlie’s Challenge Lecture: “Recent advances in the genetics of human and murine pediatric brain tumors”. Portsmouth, United Kingdom, June 2007


Andres Lozano was an Invited speaker, Movement Disorder Society - 11th International Congress Scientific Program. “Early surgery for PD vs late? Early”; Chair, Parallel Session: Movement Disorders surgery meets psychiatry. Istanbul, Turkey. June 3-7, 2007

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Dana Foundation Symposium, “Neuronal recordings in the human brain.” UCLA, June 22, 2007

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS). “Interventions for SCI which involve an invasive (surgical) approach”. Reykjavik, Iceland, June 27 – July 1, 2007

Loch Macdonald was invited to attend as the Steering committee liason, the Critical events committee meeting, CONSCIOUS-2: A Phase 3, Multi-Center, International, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Study for the Prevention of Cerebral Vasospasm After Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage by Intravenous Administration of Clazosentan, a Selective Endothelin A Receptor Antagonist, Basel, Switzerland, June, 2007

Loch Macdonald was invited to be a Grant reviewer, The Warren and Clara Cole Advisory Board Career Development Award grant reviewer, American College of Surgeons, May, 2007

Loch Macdonald was an invited Grant reviewer as part of the N.I.H. Brain Injury and Neurovascular Pathologies Study Section, both March, 2007, June, 2007, Washington, D.C.

RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Welcome Party 2007 at the home of Mari and Jim Rutka. Saturday, July 7th, 2007, 6 p.m. Please mark your calendars. If you have not yet responded to the invitation, please let Stephanie know as soon as possible.

Annual Resident Golf Tournament, Angus Glen Golf Course, Sunday August 26th, 2007. Please let Stephanie or DJ know if you plan to attend.

Annual Chairman’s Canoe Trip. September 7-9, 2007. Dr. David Piepgras 2nd Annual Canoe Trip Visiting Professor

RUNN Course, October 20-27, 2007. The Dan Chair will support two residents to attend. Anyone interested in attending, please let Stephanie know.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
From the following list of recreational activities match one or more with some of the current or past faculty members.
1. Bird watching  
2. Boating/canoeing/kayaking  
3. Cycling  
4. Farming  
5. Fishing  
6. Golf  
7. Gourmet Cooking  
8. Hiking (serious)  
9. Maple syrup production  
10. Oenology  
11. Musical instrument  
12. Photography  
13. Sailing  
14. Scuba Diving  
15. Squash  
16. Skiing  
17. Tennis  
18. Travel (recreational)  
19. Windmill construction  
20. Writing (recreational)  

ANSWER TO MAY’S QUESTION (NEUROSURGE Volume 8, Issue 9)  
A 24-year-old man has a headache, light-headedness, nausea, and severe diarrhea 24 hours after an uncomplicated septorhinoplasty. Temperature is 39.4 degrees C (103 degrees F); he has a macular rash on the face, trunk, and extremities. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?  

(A) Beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection  
(B) Influenza-like syndrome  
(C) Measles  
(D) Meningitis  
(E) Toxic shock syndrome  

The diagnosis in this patient is toxic shock syndrome (E). This syndrome is caused by release of exotoxin from Staphylococcus aureus colonizing the skin or mucous membranes. Postoperative toxic shock syndrome has been reported following clean, elective surgical procedures, including herniorrhaphies, rhinoplasties, breast implantation, and chemical facial peels. There is usually no sign of invasion of the host by the bacteria, but the systemic effects of the toxin are widespread. Fever, rash, and desquamation are early signs. Multisystem injury or failure can occur, with death resulting from refractory profound hypotension.  

Prompt treatment is essential and should include fluid replacement and local wound care, e.g., removal of nasal packing or breast prostheses and drainage of the incision. Parenteral antibiotics are recommended, although they may be of limited use in the
absence of local infection or septicemia. Corticosteroids have been reported to be of benefit early in treatment.

Beta-hemolytic streptococcal infections have their onset 48 to 72 hours after a surgical procedure. They are characterized by local drainage. Patients with influenza-like syndromes generally have a cough, facial flushing, and redness of the eyes. Diarrhea and rash are not associated. Prodromal symptoms of measles are similar to those of toxic shock syndrome. These include headache, myalgia, malaise, and fever. Patients with measles have petechial lesions on the palate and white spots on the buccal mucosa (Koplik’s spots); these symptoms occur about four days before the appearance of the macular rash. The macular rash first appears behind the ears and on the face and gradually spreads to the trunk and extremities. In contrast, the rash of toxic shock syndrome appears on the face, trunk, and extremities simultaneously. Nausea and diarrhea are not associated with measles. Meningitis can be differentiated from toxic shock.

PDF OF THE MONTH

In this PDF by Ab Guha and colleagues from the Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre, a novel tumor suppressor gene, GATA6, is described for human glioma. Congratulations to Ab and his co-authors for this outstanding, high-impact factor publication in PNAS, one of the world’s best science journals!

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.neurosurgery.org/cybermuseum/archiveshall/bibliography_1.html
By going to this website, you can review some of the most important papers published in the neurosurgical literature over the ages. Historical studies written by Cushing, Dandy, Bailey, and many others are listed here for your convenience.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
First Live Interactive Interventional Neuroradiology and Neurosurgery Course, Paris, July 2-4, 2007


NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children unless otherwise noted. See you in September! The schedule will be sent out during the summer.

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
A business dinner meeting will be held in July or August.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
September 2007. Schedule to follow.