FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
On February 7th, 2007, Arthur and Sonia Labatt generously gave another $5 million to support research efforts in the Brain Tumour Research Centre (BTRC) now at the MaRS Discovery Site. These additional funds will be endowed to support ongoing research projects, to recruit new scientists and research personnel, and to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for molecular biology studies within the BTRC. The $5 million towards the BTRC was part of a larger $30 million gift to establish the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Heart Centre at Sick Kids. This $30 million gift is the largest in the history of Sick Kids. Please find attached a photo taken of Arthur and Sonia Labatt with Ab Guha and Jim Rutka during the event.

On February 16th, 2007, Dr Jon Robertson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Tennessee, and President-Elect of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, was a visiting professor in neurosurgery at St Michael’s Hospital. His lecture at City Wide Rounds was entitled: Management of jugular foramen and carotid space tumors. Following this lecture, Dr Robertson presided over case presentations by the residents at Sick Kids. Please find attached a couple of photographs taken of Dr Robertson with the residents.

On February 21-23, Dr James Drake organized the 6th Canadian Pediatric Neurosurgery Meeting at Horseshoe Valley Resort. Many of the faculty and residents from Toronto were there as well as faculty from across Canada. The mornings were occupied with presentations, and suggested collaborations. The afternoons were spent enjoying winter activities outdoors including skiing, hiking, and dog sledding. Please find attached a photo taken of Sarah Woodrow and Sandra de Ribaupierre on one of the dog sleds. Congratulations to Jim Drake for organizing this important meeting in Pediatric Neurosurgery.
HONOURS AND AWARDS

Michael Taylor received the CRANN Award from the University of Toronto for his work on “High resolution genotyping of pediatric medulloblastoma”.

Michael Fehling is the recipient of a $30 million grant from the National Spinal Cord Injury Network for Translational Research. This money will be supporting the creation of a National Spinal Cord Injury Network for Translational Research. Michael Fehling has been appointed Co-director of this network.

Karen Davis has had her CIHR grant renewed for a further 5 years.

PUBLICATIONS


Khwaja, FW, Reed, MS, Olson, JJ, Schmotzer, BJ, Gillespie, GY, Guha, A, Groves, MD, Pohl, J, Van Meir, EG: Proteomic Identification of Biomarkers in the Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of Astrocytoma Patients J Proteome Res. Feb 2;6(2):559-570, 2007


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Chris Wallace was Visiting Professor at The 1st Annual Neurosurgery Research Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. 1/ Investigation of Natural History in Cerebrovascular Disease: Worthwhile or Waste of Time? 2/ Neurosurgery: Research and Residency. February 10, 2007.

David Houlden was an Invited Lecturer at the American Peripheral Nerve Society, 16th annual meeting, "Intraoperative Monitoring". Peurto Rico, January 14, 2007.


Loch Macdonald was an Invited Speaker at the Chicago Review Course in Neurosurgery. "Pathophysiology of subarachnoid hemorrhage and vasospasm". Chicago, IL, January 29, 2007.

Loch Macdonald was an Invited Speaker at the International Stroke Conference. 1/ "Endothelin antagonists as clues to the pathogenesis of vasospasm"; 2/ Randomized trial of clazosentan for prevention of vasospasm after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage. San Francisco, CA, February 7-9, 2007.
Loch Macdonald was a Grant Reviewer at a NIH Study Section on Brain Injury and Neurovascular Pathology. Washington, D.C., February, 2007

Michael Taylor was an Invited Member of the Scientific Planning Committee for the NIH Consensus Conference on Spinal Cord Tumors. National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, February 12, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the National Cancer Institute. “Molecular Biology of Astrocytomomas”: Singapore, February 15, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at SANC2007, AIIMS. “What Mouse Models Have Taught us About Gliomas”. New Delhi, February 18, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at Fulford CME: “Current Concepts in Management of Gliomas”: Kolkata, India February 20, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the National Brain Research Center. “Genetic Engineered Mouse Glioma Models”, Gurgaon, India, February 22, 2007

Ab Guha was a Visiting Guest at Fulford CME. “Current Concepts in Management of Gliomas”. New Delhi, India. February 22, 2007

Ab Guha was an Invited Lecturer at Tango in Brain Tumors. “Transgenic Glioma Models as Gene Discovery Tool”. Cordoba, Argentina, February 27-March 2, 2007


Jim Rutka was Visiting Professor for the Frank Nulsen Lecture at the University Hospital Health System in Cleveland, OHIO. “Medulloblastomas: New Insights from Developmental Signaling Pathways”. February 13th & 14th, 2007

Peter Dirks was a Visiting Neuroscience Lecturer at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University. His lecture was entitled "Brain Tumor Stem Cells: Defining a ground state with chemical genetics". February 12, 2007

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Michael J. Fox Foundation. “DBS – Current state of the field and new horizons.” Houston, Texas. February 6, 2007


RESIDENTS’ CORNER

Spine Course, June 11 – 13, 2007, Surgical Skills Centre. Course Leader: Dr. Eric Massicotte. If you are interested in attending, please let Stephanie know and for which day(s).

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
A 74-year-old woman was brought to the hospital after she suffered a stroke. Several days later, a neurological examination revealed that she was unable to perform certain types of learned, complex movements (i.e. apraxia). What region of the cerebral cortex was affected by the stroke?

A. Precentral gyrus?
B. Postcentral gyrus?
C. Premotor cortex?
D. Prefrontal cortex?
E. Cingulate gyrus?

ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION (JANUARY NEUROSURGE Volume 8; Issue 5)
A middle-aged man complained of chronic, insidious development of unsteadiness of gait, intermittent dizziness, and impaired hearing in his left ear. Examination revealed a mild left facial droop and decreased ability to wrinkle up the forehead on the left. His gait was slightly wide-based and ataxic.

A. List the cranial nerves affected by this lesion.
B. Where is this lesion located?
C. If this lesion were to expand further, what other cranial nerves might become involved?
D. Explain the patient’s gait.
E. If this lesion were to expand further, what neurological deficits might the patient experience other than those due to involvement of the cranial nerves? Be specific as to the side of the body on which the deficit(s) would be found.

The answers.
A. Left cranial nerves 7 and 8.
B. Left cerebello-pontine angle at the internal acoustic meatus.
C. Cranial nerves 5 and possibly 9, 10 and 11.
D. Compression of the left inferior cerebellar peduncle interferes with transmission of sensory input from joints and muscles, thereby interfering with cerebellar function.

E. Compression of the left lateral lemniscus would give rise to loss of pain and temperature on the right side of the body. Compression of the left corticospinal tract would give rise to hemiparesis on the right side of the body.

PDF OF THE MONTH
In this PDF from Operative Neurosurgery 60: 60-62, 2007, Farhad Pirouzmand and Bill Tucker describe a nice modification of a standard dural opening of the posterior fossa to facilitate closure following dural expansion. I encourage you to try this technique in the appropriate neurosurgical setting!

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca/neuro/

Our website for the Division of Neurosurgery has been updated! Please take a moment to go to it to see all the changes that are in place. In particular, please determine if you are satisfied with your web photo and biography as written. New sections on the front page include: Academic Chairs, Visiting Professors, Curriculum, and the Tanenbaum Family Gamma Knife Centre. Also, you should be aware that the rotation specific objectives, in CANMEDS format, are now found under the Programs Heading for all residents at each of the hospitals. If you would like to make any changes to the materials on our website, please let Stephanie or Jim Rutka know.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Department of Surgery, University of Toronto Surgical Rounds, Harland-Smith Lecture. Friday, March 2nd @ 7:30 a.m. Paul Marshall Auditorium, Queen Wing, Ground Floor, St. Michael’s Hospital. Professor R. Scott Mitchell, Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine. "Endovascular Repair of the Thoracic Aorta: Hope or Hype?"

City-Wide Rounds, Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, Friday, March 30th, 2007, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. hosted by The Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. David Jimenez, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas “Endoscopic assisted craniofacial remodeling procedures in children.”.

Epilepsy, Mind & Brain, Prague, Czech Republic, March 2-4, 2007

23rd Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, Phoenix, Arizona, March 7 – 10, 2007

2007 AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Seventh Biennial Symposium, Washington, DC. April 13-14, 2007


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

March 2, 2007
Topic: Biology
Bone biology and healing: Dr. Steve Lewis
Bone fusion options – extenders and substitution

March 9, 2007
Topic: Peripheral Nerve
Dr. Farhad Pirouzmand

March 16, 2007
Spine Block I

March 23, 2007
Topic: Peripheral Nerve
Dr. Farhad Pirouzmand

March 30, 2007
City-Wide Rounds,
0700-0800:
Dr. David Jimenez, Professor and Chair, Dept of Neurosurgery, U of Texas Health Sciences Center, San Antonio, TX
“Endoscopic assisted craniofacial remodeling procedures in children”
Hospital for Sick Children, Main Auditorium, 1st Floor, Elm Wing

900-1200
Case presentation with Dr. David Jimenez
Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, March 29, 2007, 7 a.m., North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 7 a.m., Room 6711, Atrium, The Hospital for Sick Children.