FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
On Friday February 8th, we hosted the CaRMS and IMG candidates for the neurosurgery program at the University of Toronto. They attended Brainschool in the morning, and toured the various hospitals in the afternoon. In the evening, the Wallaces hosted a dinner event at their home for all 25 invitees. On Saturday February 9th, all 25 candidates were interviewed by members of the Residency Program Committee. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Sandi Amaral for organizing all aspects of the candidates' program, and Chris and Katie Wallace for so graciously opening the doors of their home to so many people.

The Neurosurgery Expert Panel report for the Province of Ontario has been completed, and is now online. Thanks to Fred Gentili, Chris Wallace, and Loch Macdonald for participating in the process from the Division of Neurosurgery. More than 20 recommendations were made to improve the delivery of neurosurgery services to patients. For those interested, it can be downloaded from:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/wait_times/providers/wt_strategy.html

On February 29th, 2008, Dr Ben Warf from A.I DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware was City Wide Visiting Professor at Sick Kids Hospital, and spoke on the Burden of Hydrocephalus in Africa. His outstanding lecture was based on his experiences treating children in Uganda with hydrocephalus. He next gave a lecture to the residents in the program on Treating Infant Hydrocephalus with Combined Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy and Choroid Plexus Cauterization. Following this, the residents presented cases to Dr Warf from Sick Kids. Then, over 20 residents participated in an neuro-endoscopy course which was organized by Jim Drake at the Surgical Skills Centre at Mt Sinai Hospital where Dr Warf served as an instructor. Special thanks are given to Jim Drake for hosting Dr Warf, and for organizing the special neuro-endoscopy course. Please see attached photo of Dr. Warf taken with our residents.
HONOURS AND AWARDS
Jim Rutka has been appointed to a CNS Special Committee for Governance and Administration of Neurosurgery. Editor Designee for 1 year.

Michael Taylor has been promoted to Scientist in the Research Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children.

Cian O'Kelly is the recipient of a 2008 Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)/Micrus Endovascular Neurosurgery Fellowship.

Loch Macdonald has been appointed as an External Evaluator for Appointments and Promotions Committee of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Loch Macdonald has been appointed as an External referee, National Institutes of Health National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Intramural Program quadrennial review of faculty, 2008.

Andres Lozano was appointed to the International Advisory Board, Danish Neuroscience Centre, Aarhus University Hospital – 2008-09

Andres Lozano has been appointed to the The Lifeboat Foundation Scientific Advisory Board 2008.

Michael Fehlings has been appointed to the NFL Spinal Injuries Committee.

PUBLICATIONS

Bernstein M. “Canine grandchildren”. Dogs in Canada, page 64, February 2008


Farhat N, Matouk CC, Mamarbachi AM, Marsden PA, Allen BG, Thorin E. “Activation of ET(B) receptors regulates the abundance of ET-1 mRNA in vascular endothelial cells”. Br J Pharmacol. 2008 Feb 18; [Epub ahead of print]

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Mark Bernstein was an Honoured Guest at the Thai Neurosurgical Society, Chiang Mai Thailand, February 19-24, 2008

Julian Spears was an Invited Speaker at the Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium. “The changing nature of a modern neurovascular practice”. Montego Bay, January 26, 2008

Julian Spears was an Invited Speaker at the Stroke 2008 Meeting. “Adverse Inflammatory Events Associated with Endovascular Treatment of Medium and Large Intracranial Aneurysms”. New Orleans, February 21, 2008
Ab Guha was an Invited Guest at the Brain Gliomas Workshop: Hope for the Future- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 12-13, 2008.  
1/ Molecular Biology of Gliomas: From Bench to Bedside; 2/ Management of Malignant Gliomas; 3/ Management of Peripheral Nerve Tumors.

Ab Guha was invited to be a Participant at the NIH: ZRG1 F09 Study section. Washington, DC February 14 -15, 2008

Ab Guha was an Invited Guest at the Sontag Foundation Scientific Advisory Board Retreat. Jacksonville, FL. February 26 - 27, 2008

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the Tata Memorial Centre: 6TH Conference on "Evidenced Based Management of Cancers in India”.  
1/ Molecular Analysis of Brain Tumors: Current and Future; 2/ Management of ependymomas.  Mumbai, India, February 29-March 2, 2008

Loch Macdonald was an Invited Speaker, “Pathophysiology of subarachnoid hemorrhage and vasospasm”, Chicago Review Course in Neurosurgery. Chicago, IL February 1, 2008.

Loch Macdonald was an Invited Speaker, “Future directions based on ongoing preclinical and clinical studies”, Luncheon seminar, 2008 AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 18-19, 2008


Loch Macdonald was a Grant Reviewer - N.I.H. Study Section Chartered member, Brain Injury and Neurovascular Pathology, February, 2008

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Queen’s University Centre for Neuroscience Studies Seminar Series Speaker, and Maitland Baldwin Memorial Lecture. 1/ Adjusting the activity of brain circuits to improve neurological function. 2/ Treating depression with deep brain stimulation. Kingston, Ontario. February 6-7, 2008

Andres Lozano was a Visiting Professor, Dept of Neurological Surgery, McKnight Brain Institute, University of Florida. 1/ Adjusting the activity of brain circuits to improve neurological function, 2/ Treating depression with deep brain stimulation. Gainsville, FL. February 14-15, 2008

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at ONESpine Controversies in Spine Surgery Course.  
1/ Optimal treatment in immediate posterior reduction and instrumentation. 2/ The optimal management involving immediate decompression and reconstruction. 3/ Best Treatment Options - Minimally invasive TLIF preferred over open TLIF. Cancun, Mexico. February 8-9, 2008

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at Management of the Neurotrauma Patient Resident’s Course, UCSF. 1/ Role and Timing of Decompression for Acute SCI: STASCIS Trial Update. 2/ New Horizons in SCI. San Francisco, California. February 15-17, 2008


Michael Fehlings was invited to sit on the CIHR Team A Grants Panel. February 25, 2008


Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the AACR Meeting. “Role of Cancer Stem Cells in the Initiation and Propagation of Tumorigenesis”. Los Angeles, February 12-14, 2008


RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Faculty vs Residents Hockey Match, Saturday, March 1st, 2008, 6 p.m. at Varsity Arena.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Prepared by Robin Humphreys)
Identify and describe the anatomy of 11.
Answer to January Question (Volume 9, Issue 5)

1. Parieto-occipital fissure
2. Body of fornix
3. Dorsal thalamic area
4. Claustrum
5. External capsule
6. Putamen
7. Genu of corpus callosum
8. Septum pellucidum
9. Head of caudate nucleus
10. Anterior thalamic nucleus
11. Splenium of the corpus callosum.

PDF OF THE MONTH
By opening this PDF, you will see the incredible experience of this month's visiting City Wide Rounds Visiting Professor, Dr Ben Warf, who performed over 700 ventriculoscopies in patients with hydrocephalus in Uganda.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVUnzk40npw

By going to this website, you will see an incredible animated sequence of the complexities of cell biology. Thanks are given to Betty Kim for drawing this website to my attention.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Harland-Smith Lecture. "Surgery of Tumors Located in the Thoracic Inlet". Dr. Philippe G. Dartevelle, Professor of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Paris-Sud University. Auditorium, First Floor, Elm Wing, The Hospital for Sick Children. Friday, March 7th, 2008 @ 7:30 a.m.

City Wide Rounds, Division of Neurosurgery, U. of T. Dr. Gail Rosseau “Comprehensive Management of Pituitary Tumours”. Room 131, The Banting Institute, 100 College Street, Friday, March 28, 2008, 7 – 8 a.m.


NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children unless otherwise noted.
Thursday, March 6, 2008
2008 William S. Keith Lectureship
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing 2–401
0800-0900  Guest Lecturer: Professor Jacques Brotchi, Professor of Erasme Hospital University Brussels, Belgium. "The Management of Intramedullary Spinal Cord Tumors in 2008"
0900-1030  Mini-Symposium: Spinal
1030-1200  Mini-Symposium: Neuro-Oncology
1130-1200  Professor Jacques Brotchi. “Considerations of cerebral venous system in convexity, parasagittal and falcine meningiomas”
1330-1430  Mini-Symposium: Functional
1430-1600  Mini-Symposium: Clinical Trials in Cerebrovascular Disorders
1600-1700  The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Lecture
Professor Jacques Brotchi. “Sophisticated neurosurgery and the developing world: A permanent WFNS challenge”

Friday, March 7, 2008
2008 William S. Keith Lectureship
Guest Lecturer: Professor Jacques Brotchi, Professor of Erasme Hospital University Brussels, Belgium
0900-1200 Hospital for Sick Children, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527
Resident Case Presentations
1300-1700  Rehabilitation Sciences Building, 500 University Avenue, 1st Floor, Room 140
Presentations of research papers by University of Toronto Residents for the Thomas P. Morley Prizes
Friday, March 14, 2008
Dr. Peter Dirks: Myelomeningocele
Dr. William Halliday: Neuropathology of pediatric brain tumors
Dr. Robin Humphreys: Pediatric head injury

Friday, March 28, 2008
City-Wide Rounds hosted by Division of Neurosurgery, Toronto Western Hospital
0700-0800 The Banting Institute, 100 College Street, Room 131
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Gail Rosseau, Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery & Neuroresearch, Chicago, Illinois
"Comprehensive Management of Pituitary Tumours"
0900-1200 Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing 2-401
Mini-symposium: "International Neurosurgical Education"

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, March 27th, 2008, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children 7 – 8 a.m.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 25th, 2008  7-8 am, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children