NEUROSURGE
MONTHLY INFORMATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
The fall Lougheed Microvascular Course was held September 30th - October 3rd at the Surgical Skills Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital. Residents from across Canada and the United States participated in this course this year. This year's special guest lecturer was Dr Art Day, Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. A special thanks again to Chris Wallace who organized the course, and hosted the famed bi-annual dinner at La Bodega on Baldwin Street.

This year's RUNN course was held once again at the historic Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, October 19-24, 2008. This year, the residents who participated in the course were Victor Yang and Carlo Santaguida. I was very pleased that Dr Andrew Lozano joined me this year in presenting to all the RUNN course residents. Please see attached photo of Carlo, Victor, Victor's wife Jenny, and myself at the Coonamasset Inn in Falmouth enjoying some local cuisine -- a RUNN course tradition.

On October 27th, the first Journal Club of the academic year was held at the home of Darcy and Michael Fehlings. The topic of discussion which related to the ongoing curriculum was an analysis of the IMPACT studies in traumatic brain injury. A special thanks to Darcy and Michael Fehlings for hosting the event, and to Greg Hawryluk for organizing the discussion around the IMPACT studies. Also, thanks are given to David Cadotte and Paul Kongkham who summarized aspects of the trials for the group. Please find attached some special photos taken during the journal club at the Fehlings' home.
HONOURS AND AWARDS
Andres Lozano is the recipient of the 2008 Jonas Salk Award.

Andres Lozano has been designated as a key opinion leader in the area of "Deep Brain Stimulation" by Authoratory, a privately funded search engine. With over 7000 citations of publications in this specific area to date, Dr. Lozano ranked first when compared to all other authors using the same keyword.

Soheila Karimi and Michael Fehlings were awarded a 2-year grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation for their study “A combinatorial strategy to optimize neural repair and plasticity after chronic spinal cord injury”.

Soheila Karimi and Michael Fehlings were awarded a 2-year grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation for their study “Combinatorial therapeutic approaches to promote repair mechanisms mediated by endogenous neural stem/progenitor cells after spinal cord injury”.

Michael Fehlings has been appointed inaugural Co-Director of the newly formed University of Toronto Spine Program.

Charles Tator will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for his contributions in the field of neurosurgery, acute spinal cord injury research, and leadership roles in ThinkFirst Canada.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Michael Taylor was an Invited Speaker at the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery Annual Meeting (ISPN). “Identification of Genes and Pathways Important in the Leptomeningeal Dissemination of Medulloblastoma”. Capetown, South Africa. October 2008

Eric Massicotte was Invited Faculty to Hong Kong, October 17-18, Commissioned
training programme in Neurosurgery 2008, Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. “Approaches and Surgery to Ventral Tumours in thoracic spine - Lectures and cadaveric demonstration.”

Eric Massicotte was an Invited Lecturer at a Course on Controversies in spinal Surgery, October 31 and November 1, Miami, Florida.

Michael Schwartz was an Invited Lecturer at the Serbian Neurosurgery Society meeting in Nis, Serbia, October 10, 2008. "Radiosurgery for AVMs: The Toronto Experience".

Dr. Michael Tymianski was an invited speaker at the Neuroscience Seminar Series October 22-23, 2008, sponsored by the Departments of Neurological Surgery, Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center and the Department of Anatomy/Neurobiology, University of Louisville. "Excitotoxic and non-excitotoxic mechanisms of ischemic brain damage."

Michael Tymianski was an invited speaker at the 5th Annual Clinical Education Day on Thurs October 30, 2008, sponsored by the Joint Department of Medical Imaging (JDMI) of Mount Sinai Hospital, UHN and Women's College Hospital. Mount Sinai Hospital. "Stroke Management."

Michael Tymianski was invited to present at Neurovascular Rounds at the Ottawa Hospital - General Campus on Friday, October 31, 2008, sponsored by the Departments of Radiology and Diagnostic Neuroradiology. "Evaluating Neuroprotection in Aneurysm Coiling Therapy (ENACT) – a multi-center Phase IIb clinical trial of a PSD-95 inhibitor."

Andres Lozano was the Frank Pye Smith Lecture in Neurosurgery, University of Rochester. "Adjusting the activity of the circuits in the human brain to improve function.” Rochester, NY. October 3, 2008

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN). 1/ Functional Neurosurgery for Mind and Mood, 2/ DBS in pedunculopontine nucleus. Indications, technique and results. 3/ DBS for depression.” Rimini, Italy. October 5, 2008

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Sixth International Congress on Mental Dysfunctions & Other Mon-Motor Features in Parkinson’s Disease and Related Disorders: “DBS in motor and non-motor disorders.” Dresden, Germany. October 18, 2008

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Research Update in Neuroscience for Neurosurgeons (RUNN) 2008. “Stimulating human brain circuits.” Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. October 19, 2008

Gregory Hawryluk was a keynote speaker, BioSynergy International General Meeting, University of Toronto, September 29, 2008. "Careers in Biotechnology".
Michael Fehlings was an Invited Member of CIHR University of Montreal and University of Toronto Collaboration meeting, Toronto: “Translational Clinical Neuroscience Research at the University of Toronto”, October 3, 2008

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at a Meeting of Christopher Reeve Foundation, New York City, NY. “Basic/Mechanism Science of Riluzole; and in this context, consideration of how much recovery justifies moving to a clinical trial”. October 3, 2008

Michael Fehlings was a Visiting Professor, Harborview Medical Center, Washington University, Seattle. “Improving Outcomes of Spinal Injury Forum”. 1/ Insights in SCI recovery from myelopathy studies. 2/ What prevents spinal cord injury recovery? 3/ Panel Discussion: How can we practically improve SCI Care. 4/ Surgical Lab: Anterior TL techniques. October 4, 2008

Michael Fehlings was a Panel Member of UHN’s Café Scientifique Public Forum, Toronto: The Economic Implications of Regenerative Medicine. “Regenerative Medicine: Can it diminish the economic demands on our Health care system”. October 7, 2008


Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the American Society of Neurorehabilitation Symposium, Toronto, October 18, 2008. Session III: Review of animal to human translation of pharmacological interventions in SCI from Solumedrol and Sygen, through 4 AminoPyridine, to Riluzole and the current Cethrin trial: Pharmacological Interventions in SCI: Neuroprotection and Regeneration Strategies

Michael Fehlings was a Visiting Professor, Yale University- New Haven, Connecticut "Advances in Spinal Cord Repair and Regeneration: Opportunities for Clinical Translation of Basic Science Discoveries” October 23, 2008

Michael Fehlings was Visiting Professor, New York University – New York, New York 1/ Presentation at Spine Grand Rounds: "Advances in Spinal Cord Repair and Regeneration: Opportunities for Clinical Translation of Basic Science Discoveries". October 24, 2008

Michael Fehlings was 1/ Course Chair – Current Controversies in Spinal Spinal Surgery; 2/ Section Head – Cervical Trauma. Partnership from Toronto Western Hospital & Miami University – Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida, October 30, 2008

Jim Rutka was an Invited Speaker at the ISPN Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. 1/
“Combination of MEG and DT1 detect novel white matter tract formation in the afflicted hemispheres of pediatric patients with intractable epilepsy; with Ratan Bhardwaj 2/ "Resection of symptomatic peri-Rolandic lesions in children; 3/ "An epigenetic wide screen identifies SPINT2 as a tumor suppressor gene in medulloblastoma. October 12th - 16th, 2008

Jim Rutka was an Invited Speaker at the RUNN Course, Woods Hole, MA. "Medulloblastoma—from a Difficult Past to a Promising Future”. October 24th, 2008

FACULTY AND RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Gelareh Zadeh has joined the Division of Neurosurgery at the Toronto Western Hospital.

Adelaide Frances Stone was born October 2008 weighing 8 lbs, to Ange and Scellig Stone.

Kennedy Channah Hurley (Weeks) was born October 3rd, 2008 weighing 7 lbs, 9 oz., to Adrienne Weeks and Richard Hurley.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
Describe the impaired anatomy that would produce loss of the gag reflex. Provide a neurosurgical pathologic entity that might cause such.

ANSWER TO SEPTEMBER QUESTION (NEUROSURGE 10.1)

A patient is admitted to hospital with difficulties in swallowing, chewing, breathing and speaking. Further examinations revealed significant weakness of the muscles that govern these functions. From the drawing select the lettered option that most closely corresponds to the affected region.

G. (see last month’s attachment)

Pseudobulbar palsy is characterized in part by a weakness of the muscles controlling swallowing, chewing, breathing and speaking. It results from a lesion of the upper motor neurons associated with the head region of the cortex, which pass through the genu of the internal capsule en route to brainstem cranial nerve nuclei upon which they synapse.

VIDEO OF THE MONTH
http://video.google.ca/videosearch?q=aneurysm+clipping&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f#

This video, #3, shows the deployment of an endovascular Micrus catheter into an intracranial aneurysm. It is a nice cartoon animated video.

PDF OF THE MONTH

This PDF describes the PhD research work of Ann Parr in Charles Tator's lab who showed that spinal cord-derived neural stem/progenitor cells after delayed transplantation led to improved
functional outcome in a rat model of spinal cord injury. Congratulations to Ann and Charles for this excellent publication in Neuroscience.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://thalamus.wustl.edu/course/

By going to this website at Washington University, you will see an outstanding course in the neurosciences which reviews the pathways in neuroanatomy. A must for all residents preparing for their Royal College Exams.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Department of Surgery University Rounds, Friday, November 7th, 2008 at 7:30 a.m., Auditorium, Mount Sinai Hospital. Lister Prize Winner – Dr. Shaf Keshavjee “Lung Transplantation: The Toronto Story”; George Armstrong-Peters Prize – Dr. Cindi Morshead “Adult Neural Stem Cells: Activating Self-Repair Mechanisms Following Injury”.

7th Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury on Friday, November 14, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 89 Chestnut University of Toronto, Colony Grande Ballroom East, 2nd Floor. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerry Silver, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Division of Neurosurgery, City-wide Rounds, Friday, November 28th, 2008 at 7:00 a.m., Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. J.P. Farmer, McGill University “Dorsal Rhizotomy”.


XIV World Congress of Neurological Surgery, Boston, MA. August 30-September 4, 2009. Registration and Housing are now open.

NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children unless otherwise noted. Friday, November 7, 2008 Lumbar Spine Pathology

November 10-11, 2008
2008 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship hosted by Division of Neurosurgery, Toronto Western Hospital
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing 2-401
Guest Lecturer: Professor Manfred Westphal, Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery at the University Hospital, Hamburg, Germany
Friday, November 14, 2008
Ethics

Friday, November 14, 2008
7th Annual Charles Tator – Barbara Turnbull Lectureship in Spinal Cord Injury
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Colony Grande Ballroom East, 2nd Floor, Chestnut Residence, University of Toronto, 89 Chestnut Street
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerry Silver, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Friday, November 21, 2008
Note time change “8:00 am to 11:00 am”
Cervical Spine Pathology

Friday, November 28, 2008
City-Wide Rounds hosted by Division of Neurosurgery, Hospital for Sick Children
0700-0800 Main Auditorium, 1st Floor, Elm Wing
Guest: Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer, Professor, Oncology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, McGill University, The Montreal Children’s Hospital
“Dorsal Rhizotomy”
0900-1200: Resident Seminar, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
The next meeting will be held @ 7 a.m., Thursday, November 27th, 2008 in the North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
The next meeting will be held @ 7 a.m., Tuesday, November 11th, 2008 in Room 7246, The Hospital for Sick Children.