FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

It is with great pride that I inform you of Dr Charles Tator’s induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in Montreal, April 27th, 2009. Dr Tator follows in the footsteps of neurosurgical giants Wilder Penfield, Charles Drake, and William Feindel in receiving this distinction in our field. Congratulations Dr Tator!

The final City-Wide Rounds visiting professorship for the academic year was held at St Michael’s Hospital on April 24th, 2009. Dr Steven Giannotta, Professor and Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Southern California was the invited visiting professor. Dr Giannotta spoke on Ophthalmic Segment Aneurysms: Technical Adjuncts. Following this presentation, he instructed our residents through a number of complex vascular cases.

We are indeed privileged in Toronto that Andres Lozano and Moji Hodaie will be presiding over the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN) Quadrennial Meeting to be held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, May 24-27, 2009. All residents and faculty are encouraged to attend this unique educational offering. The web address for registration is: www.wssfn.org

On March 30-April 3, Chris Wallace hosted the 39th Lougheed Microvascular Course at the Mt Sinai Surgical Skills Centre. The visiting guest professor was Dr Ian Fleetwood from Dalhousie University. Special thanks once again to Chris for organizing this course for the neurosurgical residents across the country.

Finally, the final hockey match of the season was held at Varsity Arena Saturday April 4th. The player of the game was Dr Chris Wallace who helped the faculty nudge past the residents. It should be stated however that the previous game at Forest Hills Area on February 27th was won
by the residents. The player of the game was Zul Kaderali who scored his first major league goal. Congratulations Zul!

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Peter Dirks was promoted to full Professor in the Division of Neurosurgery, the Department of Surgery. Congratulations Peter!

Charles Tator was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame April 27th in Montreal (see above).

Andres Lozano received a grant from the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation for his work entitled “Effects of internal globus pallidus deep brain stimulation for dystonia on cortical circuits and plasticity”.

Michael Fehlings has been re-appointed as Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurosurgery Spine.

Michael Fehlings has been appointed the Canadian Medical Association Representative of the Canadian Spine Society.

Michael Fehlings and his colleagues received the Outstanding Outcomes Research Award at the recent 2009 AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves meeting in Phoenix, AZ for their paper entitled “Key predictors of outcomes in patients undergoing surgical treatment for cervical spondylotic myelopathy: Analysis of a prospective multicenter study in 285 patients with 1-year follow-up”.

David Cadotte has been selected by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Fellowships Committee to receive the 2009-2010 CNS/Synthes Spine Fellowship.

David Cadotte received a 2 year Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) for Graduate Studentship and Post-doctoral Fellowship Award in Spinal Cord Injury Research. This award is for his research project entitled "Functional magnetic resonance imaging evaluation of the injured human spinal cord: an assessment of recovery and functional plasticity ".

Peter Dirks has been awarded a Canadian Cancer Research Society grant for his work on “Defining cancer stem cell and clonal heterogeneity in mouse brain tumours”.

Clement Hamani received a Young Investigator Award/grant from NARSAD - National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression for his project on “Deep Brain Stimulation in an Animal Model of Depression”.

Ab Guha received 1 yr of bridge funding from CIHR for his work on “Glioblastoma Multiforme Biomarkers”.

PUBLICATIONS


Puget S; Grill J; Valent A; Bieche I; Dantas-Barbosa C; Kauffmann A; Dessen P; Lacroix L; Geoerger B; Job B; Dirven C; Varlet P; Peyre M; Dirks PB; Sainte-Rose C; Vassal G. Candidate Genes on Chromosome 9q33-34 Involved in the Progression of Childhood Ependymomas. J Clin Oncol. 2009 Mar 16, 1200/JCO.2007.15.4195


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Marseille Neurosurgery 2009 Joint Annual Meeting (EANS-SFNC). (1) Where have we been, where are we and where are we heading?” (2) Anatomopathological bases of psychiatric surgery.” Marseille, France. March 27-31, 2009

Michael Taylor was Visiting Professor in Seoul Korea at the University of Ulsan College of Medicine, ASAN Medical Center. “Cancer Genetics of Medulloblastoma”. Seoul, Korea, April 15, 2009

Michael Taylor was a Special Invited Guest at the Korean Neurosurgical Society. 1/ Molecular Genetics of Medulloblastoma. 2/ A Novel Genetically Modified Mouse Model of
Medulloblastoma Identifies Genes and Pathways Important in Leptomeningeal Dissemination.  
3/ Basic Science of Pediatric Brain Tumors. Cheongju, Korea. April 17, 2009

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Constantiaberg Hospital, Capetown South Africa. “Novel therapeutic applications of Deep Brain Stimulation.” March 20, 2009

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at Emory Neurosciences Symposium in honour of Dr. Mahlon DeLong, Emory School of Medicine. “DBS for Tremor and PD: New Applications.” Atlanta, GA. April 17, 2009

Chris Wallace was an Invited Lecturer to Neuroscience Ethics Symposium Macquarie University, Sydney University, Australia. “The Patient with an Untreated Brain Vascular Malformation: "What will happen to me?" April 20-22, 2009

Michael Tymianski was an Invited Speaker at the Neuroscience Seminar Series at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. "Excitotoxic and Non-excitotoxic mechanisms of ischemic brain damage.” April 14, 2009.

Michael Tymianski was an Invited Participant in the Canadian Stroke Network Theme III Group meeting. Montreal April 15, 2009

Michael Fehlings was Chair of the AOSpine North America Fellows Forum, Banff Alberta
The Treatment of Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy: A Prospective Study
How Should Young Doctors Avoid Complications? April 2-5, 2009

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the Spine Society of Australia, Brisbane, Australia
Controversies in Treatment of Cervical Spine – Predictors of Outcome in Cervical Myelopathy: The Importance of early Diagnosis and Surgical Intervention. April 16-20, 2009:


RESIDENT AND FACULTY CORNER
Surgical Epilepsy Course, Saturday, May 9th, 2009, Surgical Skills Centre. Course Directors are Taufik Valiante and Jim Rutka. Please let Stephanie know if you are interested in signing up for it.

World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN) Quadrennial Meeting to be held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, May 24-27, 2009.
Andres Lozano, President of the WSSFN, and Moji Hodaie, Planning Committee Chair.

Columbia University Charity Softball Tournament, June 6, 2009, New York City. Anyone interested in participating, please sign up with Stephanie.
University of Toronto Spine course June 15-16-17, 2009, Surgical Skills Centre. Course Director: Eric Massicotte. If you are interested, please let Vraja McAllister know at vraja.mcallister@uhn.on.ca or 416-603-5675

8th Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury will take place on Friday, October 2, 2009. This year, we are excited to have James Fawcett from Cambridge University Centre for Brain Repair provide the Keynote Speech.

Brain Aneurysm Foundation Appeal: Loch Macdonald is raising funds for the Brain Aneurysm Foundation by participating in the Ironman competition to take place in Lake in July. A number of our faculty and residents have received funding and will be submitting grants to this Foundation this year. Please consider making a donation to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation through Loch’s specific webpage: http://bafound.donorpages.com/TeamCindy/lochmacdonald/

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (Answer to March’s Question)

The patient’s altered gait is representative of compression of the left inferior cerebellar peduncle (restiform body) (arrow) that interferes with transmission of sensory input from joints and muscles, thereby interfering with cerebellar function.
April’s Question
Describe the nerve supply to the intracranial dura mater.

VIDEO OF THE MONTH
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byahbG8H5W4

This video depicts the removal of an intraventricular tumor by Dr Matutes.
Enjoy!

PDF OF THE MONTH

Please look at this PDF. The TWH experience of the Endonasal Approach to the Anterior Cranial Base is described. Congratulations to Fred Gentili and colleagues for this impressive contribution to the literature!

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

By going to this website, you will have an opportunity to review National Geographic’s presentation of the human brain, complete with outstanding photographs and video sequences. Though written for the lay press, neurosurgeons and residents will find some useful information and extremely well illustrated figures within.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gallie Day, Friday, May 8, 2009 at 7:30 a.m., Auditorium, MaRS Collaboration Centre, 101 College Street. Gordon Murray Lecturer, Mr. Oscar Traynor, Royal college of surgeons in Ireland “Surgeons are born, not made. Right?”

Division of Neurosurgery, Visiting Professors, Friday, May 8, 2009 at 7:00 a.m., Room 1527. Dr. Eka Wahjoepramono and Dr. Julius July, Indonesia

Gallie Day, Friday May 8th, 2009, MaRS Centre, Lower Concourse. Gordon Murray Lecturer, Mr. Oscar Traynor, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland “Surgeons are born, not made. Right?”

2009 William S. Keith Visiting Professor in Neurosurgery. Toronto Western Hospital. Professor Juha Hernesniemi, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki, Finland. May 11-12, 2009.

XIV World Congress of Neurological Surgery, Boston, MA. August 30-September 4, 2009. Registration and Housing are now open.  www.AANS.org/wfns2009


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

Friday, May 1, 2009
Neuro-oncology
Dr. F. Pirouzmand:  Peripheral nerve tumors
Dr. T. Mainprize:  Tumor resection in eloquent cortex. Principles and pitfalls

Friday, May 8, 2009
Guest Lecturers
7:00 – 8:30 a.m., The Hospital for Sick Children, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527
Dr. Eka Wahjoepramono, "Surgery of brainstem vascular and neoplastic lesions"
Dr. Julius July, “Neurosurgery Life in Jakarta 2 Years After a Fellowship in Toronto”

Gallie Day
8:15 a.m., Opening Remarks, MaRS Centre, Lower Concourse
Gordon Murray Lecturer, Mr. Oscar Traynor, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland “Surgeons are born, not made.  Right?”
4:00 p.m., Adjournment

Friday, May 15, 2009
Topic: Spinal Tumors
David Cadotte: Primary tumors of the spinal column
Aria Fallah: Extradural spinal tumors
Julius Ebinu: Intradural extramedullary tumors
Abhaya Kulkarni: Intradural intramedullary tumors
David Houlden: Neuromonitoring for spinal tumors

Friday, May 22, 2009
Topic: Intraventricular and calvarial tumors
Mehdi Shahideh: Skull tumors
Adrienne Weeks: Classification, differential, patient presentation of intraventricular tumors
James Drake: Surgical approaches to the ventricular system

Friday, May 29, 2009
E. Bruce Hendrick Lectureship - Hospital for Sick Children, Roy Hill Wing, 1st Floor, Room 1527
Guest Lecturer:  Professor Paul Steinbok, Head, Pediatric Neurosurgery, British Columbia Children's Hospital
0700-0800:  Occult tethered cord syndrome: fact or fancy
0830:  Management of craniopharyngiomas in Children
0900-1200:  Resident Seminar

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
The next meeting will be held @ 7:00 a.m., Thursday, May 28th, 2009, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
The next meeting will be held @ 7 a.m., Tuesday, May 12th, 2009, WW 4-438, Toronto Western Hospital.