FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
This year’s Keith visiting lectureship brought Dr Anil Nanda, Professor and Chair of Neurosurgery in Shreveport Louisiana, to Toronto May 31-June 2. Dr Nanda delivered 4 excellent lectures on the topics of Intracranial Aneurysm Surgery; “Curiosity, Compassion and Composure;” “Is the art of surgical clipping of cerebral aneurysms facing extinction;” “Changing trends in neurosurgery – An Historical Perspective;” and The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Lecture entitled “The unbearable lightness of honesty in neurosurgical complications.” Resident research presentations were given for the Morley Prize. This year’s winners were: Scellig Stone, first prize award; and Adrienne Weeks, second prize award. In addition, Mark Bernstein announced the winner of this year’s Neurosurgery Literary Award winner, Katherine Howe. Dinner was hosted by the Division of Neurosurgery at TWH on Monday night at Biagio’s Ristorante. Please see attached photos taken from this year’s Keith lectureship.

This year, a team of 12 residents and faculty participated in the 7th Annual Charity Softball Tournament hosted by Columbia University in New York City’s Central Park June 5th. Our team played extremely well playing against the BNI, Columbia University, the University of Utah, and the University of Pittsburgh. Please see attached photo of the UofT Neurosurgery Baseball Team, and the only Canadian entry amongst the 25 teams that participated. Special thanks are given to Mike, Emily and Stephanie Neilson, and Robin Lewis for their coaching skills and expertise.

The Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Annual Meeting took place this year in Quebec City June 14-18. UofT Neurosurgery was well represented with numerous presentations given by faculty and residents (see below). A special dinner was held at the Chateaux Relais Restaurant “Initiale” where residents and faculty could enjoy a
sumptuous dinner prepared by acclaimed chef Yvan Lebrun. Please see attached photo of this celebratory dinner event.

As this is the final Neurosurgery for this academic year, it is a tradition to provide a summary of hi-lites for the year, and these are listed below. It will also serve as my last Neurosurgery as Chair of the Division of Neurosurgery. It has been my great honour and privilege to serve as Chair. Shortly, you will all be receiving a summary of our accomplishments these past 11 years, and you will see all the reasons why we can be very proud of our Division. Finally, I should like to congratulate Andres Lozano on becoming the next Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. Under his leadership and guidance, our future is extremely bright and promising.

2009-2010 MAJOR EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
1. Annual Chairman’s Canoe Trip with fourth annual Visiting Professor, Dr. Chris Getch, Northwestern University, Chicago. Lake Temagami, September 18-20 2009


3. Lougheed Microvascular Course. Dr. Max Findlay, October 5-9, 2009

4. Visiting Professor, U of T Spine Program, Dr. Professor Satoshi Tani, Jikei University, Tokyo, October 16, 2009

5. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, St Michael’s Hospital, Dr Fady Charbel, University of Illinois, November 27, 2009


8. Visiting Professor, City Wide Rounds, Toronto Western Hospital, Dr Chris Shaffrey, University of Virginia, February 5, 2010

9. XXIII Annual Marshall Lecture. Dr. Michael Avidan, Washington University, St. Louis, February 18, 2010

10. Lougheed Microvascular course, The Surgical Skills Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, March 22-26, 2010 with Visiting Professor, Dr Howard Lesiuk, University of Ottawa.
11. 2010 Keith Lectureship, Dr Anil Nanda, LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, Louisiana, May 31 - June 1, 2010. Morley Prize Winners: 1st Prize - Dr. Scellig Stone; 2nd Prize - Dr. Adrienne Weeks

12. Annual Gallie Day Award Winners May 7, 2010: first prize Gallie-Bateman Award for best resident research paper and presentation, Dr. D.J. Cook.

13. 2010 Annual E Bruce Hendrick Lectureship, Sick Kids Hospital, Dr. William Harkness, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, England, May 14, 2010; AR Hudson Annual Teaching Awards: Faculty, Farhad Pirouzmand; Resident; Ryan DeMarchi; Warren Ho Memorial Scholarship, David Cadotte.

14. 2nd Annual U of T SpineFest Visiting Professorship. Dr. Ed Benzel, Cleveland Clinic, June 25, 2010

15. 2010 CNSF Annual Meeting June 8-11, Halifax, Nova Scotia. KG McKenzie Memorial Prize winner for Basic Science Research, Dr. Scellig Stone

16. Number of publications by neurosurgery faculty and residents = 255

17. Number of New Grant Awards, Faculty = 37

18. Number of New Fellowship awards, Residents = 9

19. Number of Visiting Professorships by Faculty = 152

20. Promotions: Professor, Dr. William Tucker; Associate Professor, Drs. Eric Massicotte and Michael Taylor

21. New Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada: Dr. Hussein Al-Ahmadi, Dr. Merdas Al-Otaibi; and Dr. Ratan Bhardwaj.

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Betty Kim received the 2010 Sopman Humanitarian Award

Charles H. Tator was awarded the Canadian Neurosurgical Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the Canadian Neurological Science Federation Congress meeting on June 10, 2010.

Chris Wallace has been appointed as President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society for a term of 2 years. Congratulations Chris!

Clement Hamani was elected as a board member of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
Michael G. Fehlings has been awarded a Hansjörg Wyss Foundation Award from AOSpine International for their project “A cellular and molecular strategy to unlock the regenerative reservoir of the notochordal cell: A novel approach to treat intervertebral disc degeneration”.

Michael G. Fehlings has been awarded a 2-year grant from the Physicians’ Services Incorporated Foundation for their research project entitled, “A bioengineered approach to enhance recovery following severe traumatic spinal cord injury”.

Michael Taylor received a 3 year renewal from the Canadian Institutes of Health, Clinician Scientist Phase II Award.

Michael Taylor was appointed as Chair, Young Investigators Committee, Society for Neuro-Oncology.

U. OF T. NEUROSURGERY AT THE CNSF ANNUAL MEETING, QUEBEC CITY, JUNE 8-11, 2010
The following neurosurgical faculty and residents took part this year in the program of the CNSF meeting:

Charles H. Tator was awarded the Canadian Neurosurgical Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the Canadian Neurological Science Federation Congress meeting on June 10, 2010.

James T. Rutka delivered the Penfield Lecture “Recent Advances in Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery: Penfield Would be Proud”


DJ Cook and Michael Tymianski. Treatment of acute ischemic stroke in Old World primates with PSD-95 inhibitor NA-1.

Gelareh Zadeh and Ab Guha. Role of bone marrow derived progenitor cells in intracranial tumor neovascularization.

Michael Fehlings. Defining the optimal management of os odontoideum: Results of a systematic review.

DJ Cook, Michael Tymianski. Effectiveness of NA-1, a PSD-95 Inhibitor, in a non-human primate model of embolic stroke.

Shobhan Vachhrajani, Abhaya Kulkarni. Normal computed tomography measurements of the upper cervical spine in the pediatric population

Demitre Serletis, Taufik Valiante. Transition to seizures: A synaptic crescendo.

Gelareh Zadeh. Patterns of tumor response and nonauditory morbidity following radiosurgery for vestibular schwannoma.

Safran Mohammed, Michael Cusimano. Management of maternal hydrocephalus.

Gelareh Zadeh, Ab Guha. Establishing a high-resolution in-vivo imaging technique to examine the dynamic contribution of bone marrow derived endothelial progenitor cells to intracranial tumor vasculature.

Zul Kaderali, Loch Macdonald, Julian Spears. Timing of re-canulization may permit decreased surveillance after one year.

David Cadotte, Michael Fehlings. A systematic review of pain following traumatic spinal cord injury – an instance of abhorrent plasticity?

Michael Fehlings. A comparison of four quantitative methods to assess spine stenosis on magnetic resonance imaging in patients with cervical spondylotic myelopathy (CSM).


Jim Rutka, Jim Drake. MEG source localization for epileptogenic zone in children with porencephalic cyst.


Gregory Hawryluk, Michael Fehlings. Towards optimal management of anticoagulation following central nervous system hemorrhage in patients with high thromboembolic risk.


Michael Ellis, Julian Spears. T. Pipeline embolization device reconstruction of ruptured intracranial aneurysms: Report of two cases.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
Michael Fehlings was an invited speaker at 16th Annual Kentucky Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research Trust (KSCHIRT) Symposium, Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Repair and regeneration of the injured spinal cord: From molecules to man

Michael Fehlings was an invited speaker at NeuroDevNet, Montreal, QC. Mini-Symposium: Experimental models (Cerebral Palsy focus) – Regenerative strategies for CNS white matter injury and demyelination.

Michael Fehlings was an invited speaker at Neurotrauma 2010, National Neurotrauma Society, Las Vegas, NV. Therapeutic advances in spinal cord injury: Update on clinical trials.

Michael Fehlings was co-chair for SpineFEST Visiting Professorship, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. Two-year outcomes of surgical decompression for cervical spondylotic myelopathy: Results of the AOSpine multicenter study in 280 patients

Michael Fehlings was an invited speaker at the 1st Canadian Stroke Congress, Canadian Stroke Network, Quebec City, QC. Towards optimal management of anticoagulation following central nervous system hemorrhage in patients with high thromboembolic risk. June 7-8, 2010

Clement Hamani was an invited professor to give rounds at Louisiana State University Deep Brain Stimulation for depression. May 19, 2010

Clement Hamani was an invited speaker at the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery biannual meeting. Pedunculopontine nucleus deep brain stimulation. June 15, 2010

Clement Hamani was an invited speaker at the Neural Interfaces Conference 21/06 Pedunculopontine nucleus deep brain stimulation. June 21, 2010

James T. Rutka delivered a lecture at the New England Neurosurgical Society Annual Meeting, Cape Cod, MA, June 17 - 19, 2010.“Current Socioeconomic Issues Facing the AANS.”
RESIDENTS’ CORNER
Annual Welcome Party for PGY1 neurosurgery residents, 149 Mossgrove Trail, Saturday July 3rd, 2010. Spouses and children are welcome!

Here is the site with all the slo-pitch tournament pictures: [http://neurosurgerycharitysoftball2010.shutterfly.com/](http://neurosurgerycharitysoftball2010.shutterfly.com/)

On Saturday June 12, 2009, Demitre Serletis married Lorraine Hanoun at a wedding ceremony which took place at St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church in Toronto (see attached photo)

ANSWER TO MAY’S QUESTION (NEUROSURGE Volume 11, Issue 9)
The fasciculus cuneatus is not present until the cervical level of the spinal cord when it brings in the discriminative sensory input from the arms. It is the fasciculus gracilis that serves the legs.

PDF OF THE MONTH

In this PDF by Gelareh Zadeh and colleagues, the role of Angiopoietin 2 in human astrocytomas is described. Angiopoetin 2 was shown to marked affect the vascularity and tumor growth of astrocytomas. This work is a continuation of excellent studies by Gelareh focusing on the process of angiogenesis in malignant brain tumors.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
[http://thejns.org/toc/foc/current](http://thejns.org/toc/foc/current)

By going to this website, you will land on Neurosurgical Focus, the electronic journal of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group. In this issue, a review of the history of military neurosurgery can be found. There is no question that major advances in our subspecialty came about from treating soldiers who were injured across numerous wars and battlefields over time. There are excellent perspectives here from countries around the world, including the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

VIDEO OF THE MONTH

By going to this web address, you will see a video of the treatment of Chiari I malformation at the NIH.
UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Department of Surgery at St. Michael’s Hospital will be hosting a retirement dinner for Bill Tucker on Friday, July 23rd, 2010. Details will follow, but in the meantime, please set the date aside.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 29th, 2010, 7 – 8 a.m., Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing, 4-430.