FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
The 40th Lougheed Microvascular Course in the 20th year was held October 5 – 9 at the Surgical Skills Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr J Max Findlay, President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society, and Neurosurgeon at the University of Alberta was the invited guest lecturer for this special anniversary course. In addition to instructing the residents on the nuances of technical microvascular neurosurgery, Dr Findlay gave three lectures to residents and faculty. Having been the most recent chief examiner in Neurosurgery at the Royal College, he provided the residents with an overview lecture on the design and structure of the Royal College Examinations in Neurosurgery. Dr Findlay then spoke on the contributions of Dr William Lougheed to microvascular neurosurgery, and neurosurgery in Toronto. Finally, Dr Findlay presented a lecture on “A Good Surgeon” at Neuroscience Rounds at the Toronto Western Hospital. The course participants, residents and faculty met at La Bodega Restaurant for dinner on October 6th. Special thanks are given to Chris Wallace for organizing this fall’s special anniversary course. Please see attached photo taken of Chris and Max taken during the week of the course.

On October 16, 2009, Dr Professor Satoshi Tani from Jikei University in Tokyo was the first quarterly visiting professor for the UofT Spine Program which was hosted by Dr Howard Ginsberg and Dr Henry Ahn at St Michael’s Hospital. Dr Tani gave an outstanding lecture on new techniques for spinal neurosurgery which he has pioneered over the past 25 years. After his lecture, Dr Tani was taken to a Maple Leafs hockey game where the attached photo was taken.
In the photo are: Drs Tani, Tochigi (spine fellow at St Michael’s), Ahn, and Ginsberg (from right to left).

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons’ Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans October 24-29. The theme of the meeting was “A Culture of Excellence”, and I was very fortunate to be invited as Honored Guest by CNS President Dr David Adelson. Numerous residents and faculty participated in the Scientific Program (see below). Congratulations are given to David Cadotte for receiving the CNS/Synthes Spine Fellowship for work to be done in the laboratory of Michael Fehlings. On Tuesday evening October 27th, a special dinner was held in my honour at the Pavillion of the Two Sisters, and I was very pleased that many faculty and residents could attend this event. I would like to thank Chris Wallace for acting as Master of Ceremonies, and Jim Drake, Mark Bernstein, DJ Cook, and Scellig Stone who spoke on my behalf. Other speakers included: Doug Kondziolka, Richard Ellenbogen, John Popp, John Robertson, Antonio Chiocca, Katie Wallace, Andrew Jea, Peter Black, and Necmettin Pamir. The attendees were regaled by music played by my son Dan on the piano, and by a trio of Princeton Grads, Rusty Rodts (Incoming President of the CNS), Chris Getch (President-Elect of the CNS), and Daniel Resnick who sang “Old Nassau”. Please see attached some photos taken during the CNS Annual Meeting. More to follow in the near future!

Happy Halloween to All!

HONOURS AND AWARDS
Abhays Kulkarni is serving as an Associate Editor for Neurosurgery

R. Loch Macdonald is one of the Principle Investigators on a Grant received from the Physicians Services Incorporated Foundation, “Determination of the Age of Ruptured and Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms”, 2009 - 2011

Loch Macdonald has been appointed to the Editorial Board of World Neurosurgery.

Karen Davis and Moji Hodaie received a grant from the Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation, “Diffusion based tractography and structural brain imaging in trigeminal neuralgia: correlation with quantitative sensory testing and response to treatment”. 2009 - 2011

Peter Dirks was the Farber Lecturer at the Society of Neuro-oncology Meeting

• Dr. Michael Fehlings has been appointed to serve as an Associate Editor of the journal Neurosurgery.

• Dr. Michael Fehlings was awarded a 1-year grant from CIHR for his project entitled “Global Blueprint Stakeholders Conference for Stem Cell Translation”.

Dr. Michael Fehlings is the recipient of a North American Spine Society (NASS) 2009 Research Grant for his project “Neuroprotective approaches to enhance recovery in cervical spondylotic myelopathy”.
Dr. Michael Fehlings has been selected to receive the North American Spine Society’s 2009 Leon Wiltse Award for excellence in leadership and/or clinical research in spine care.

U. OF T. NEUROSURGERY AT THE CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS MEETING, NEW ORLEANS, LA OCTOBER 24-29, 2009

The following neurosurgical faculty and residents took part this year in the program of the World Congress of Neurological Surgeons:

- Jim Rutka – Honored Guest; Course Director, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology; NSI Excellence in Global Neurosurgery; Excellence in Neurosurgical Research: The Neuro-Oncology Paradigm; Resident/Honored Guest Luncheon; Excellence in Clinical Neurosurgery: Practice and Judgment Make Perfect; Achieving Excellence in Craniopharyngioma – Opening Presentation and Perspective; Functional/Epilepsy and Pain; Epilepsy
- David Cadotte – CNS/Synthes Spine Fellowship
- Michael Taylor – Pediatric Neuro-Oncology
- Michael Fehlings – Course Director, Spine Trauma; Effectiveness of Surgical Treatment for Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy: 2-Year Follow-up Results of the Multicenter AOSpine North America Study in 300 Subjects; Predictors of Patient Response to Anterior Cervical Fusion with Instrumentation in Patients with Single Level Degenerative Disk Disease: One-year Outcomes from a Multi-center Randomized Controlled Trial; Moderator – Neurosurgical Forum – Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care; Neural Precursor Cell Transplantation Increases Trophic Factor Expression and Preserves Oligodendrocytes following Spinal Cord Injury
- DJ Cook – Effectiveness of NA-1, a PSD-95 Inhibitor, in a Primate Model of Embolic Stroke
- Michael Tymianski - Effectiveness of NA-1, a PSD-95 Inhibitor, in a Primate Model of Embolic Stroke; Giant Intracranial Aneurysms of the Posterior Cerebral Circulation: The Toronto Western Hospital Experience
- Chris Wallace – Giant Intracranial Aneurysms of the Posterior Cerebral Circulation: The Toronto Western Hospital Experience
- Eric Massicotte - Effectiveness of Surgical Treatment for Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy: 2-Year Follow-up Results of the Multicenter AOSpine North America Study in 300 Subjects
- Greg Hawryluk - Neural Precursor Cell Transplantation Increases Trophic Factor Expression and Preserves Oligodendrocytes following Spinal Cord Injury
- Moji Hodaie – DTI Correlates of Pain and Possible Pathogenetic Mechanisms in trigeminal Neuralgia
- Michael Schwartz – Minimally Invasive DREZ Operation: Experimental Surgical Evidence
- David Houlden - Minimally Invasive DREZ Operation: Experimental Surgical Evidence
- Jim Drake – Treatment of Hydrocephalus: Shunts and Endoscopy
- Andres Lozano – Measuring Excellence in Clinical Translational Research

PUBLICATIONS


Tator CH. Let’s standardize the definition of concussion and get reliable incidence data. Can J Neurol Sci. 36:405-6, 2009.


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Loch MacDonald was an Invited Speaker at the 10th International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm. 1/ “Uncoupling of endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) after subarachnoid hemorrhage”. 2/ “Loss of long-term potentiation in the hippocampus after experimental subarachnoid hemorrhage in rats.” 3/ “Effects of clazosentan on microthrombosis following experimental subarachnoid hemorrhage”. October 8-12, 2009, Chongqing, China

Bernstein was an Invited Speaker, Society for Italian Neurosurgery Annual Conference, “Ethical issues in neurosurgery: Consent and error.” Lecce, Italy, October 2009:

Charles Tator was an Invited Speaker at the 2009 Concussion Workshop, Ophea Kids’ Health Conference. Alliston, ON, October 16, 2009.


Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the 36th International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), symposium on Comprehensive approaches to pain- from molecule to organism. “Cortical responses to pain”. Kyoto, Japan, Aug 2009.

Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the University of Western Ontario, Interdisciplinary Pain Rounds. “Functional and structural MR imaging of pain in the brain”. London, ON, Sep 2009.

Ab Guha was an Invited Speaker at the Society of Neurooncology/Jt. Tumor Section: Oct, New Orleans, LA. 1/ Low Level Expression of Collapsin Response Mediator Protein (CRMP1) in Human Gliomas with Mutant EGFRVIII Promotes Invasion. 2/ The role of a novel neurofibromin 1 (NFI) interaction with leucinerich pentatricopeptide repeat cassette (LRPPRC) in subcellular transport of RNA granules. 3/ In situ evaluation of mutant EGFR and ERBB family member dimerization and activation in human GBMS. 4/ Hexokinase 2 promotes tumor cell survival through metabolic remodeling in glioblastoma multiforme. 5/ Human schwannomas express activated platelet-derived growth factor receptors and CKIT and are growth inhibited by GLEEVEC (IMATINIB mesylate).

Andres Lozano was the Keynote speaker. Turkish Parkinson’s Disease Society. 1/ “Surgery for Parkinson’s disease”; 2/ “Emerging indications for DBS”; 3/ “Future of Functional Surgery.” Marmaris, Turkey. October 3, 2009


Andres Lozano was an Invited Lecturer at the Review and Update in Neuroscience for Neurosurgeons (RUNN) course. “Adjusting the Activity in Human Brain Circuits.” Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. Oct 20, 2009
Michael Fehlings was an Invited Lecturer at the RUNN Course, “Repair and regeneration of the injured spinal cord: from molecule to man. Woods Hole, MA Oct 23, 2009:

ANSWER TO SEPTEMBER’S QUESTION (NEUROSURGE Volume 11, Issue 1)
A. Fornix
B. Primary visual cortex
C. Calcarine fissure
D. Pons
E. Anterior commissure
F. Genu of the corpus callosum
G. Septum pellucidum
H. Cingulate gyrus
I. Thalamus

OCTOBER’S QUESTION
As a result of calcification of the internal carotid artery, which impinged upon the lateral half of the right optic nerve prior to its entrance to the brain, a 68 year-old man experienced a discrete visual impairiment. Which is the most likely visual deficit?
A. Total blindness of the right eye.
B. Right nasal hemianopsia.
C. Right homonymous hemianopsia.
D. Right bitemporal hemianopsia.
E. Right upper homonymous quadrantanopia.

PDF OF THE MONTH
Sun H-S, Jackson MF, Martin LJ, et al., Suppression of hippocampal TRPM7 protein prevents delayed neuronal death in brain ischemia. Nature Neuroscience 12: 1300-1307, 2009. In this report from Michael Tymianski’s laboratory, it was shown that hippocampal neuronal death could be prevented by inhibiting a transient receptor potential channel that is essential for embryonic development, TRPM7. Regional suppression of TRPM7 is not only feasible and well tolerated, but inhibits delayed neuronal death in vivo, and becomes a potential strategy to prevent ischemic brain injury. Congratulations to Michael and colleagues on this high impact neuroscience paper!

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/psychologygagepage/

This webpage reviews the life history of Phineas Gage 1823-1860 and his amazing story of survival from a penetrating traumatic brain injury. His story taught neurologists of the day important lessons in brain structure and function, including the role of the frontal lobes in personality change.
VIDEO OF THE MONTH
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Fag08Hd2po&feature=related

This YouTube video depicts the microvascular removal of a CP angle meningioma. A great review of neurosurgical techniques.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Department of Surgery University Rounds, Friday November 6 at 7:30 am at Unity Hall, 90 Gerrard Street. Speakers – 1/ Ab Guha - recipient of the Lister Prize. "Malignant Brain Tumor: Aberrant Signalling and Metabolism". 2/ Robert Nam - recipient of the George Armstrong-Peters Award. "Prostate Cancer: All Male Faculty Over 40 Years of Age Should Attend".

City-Wide Neurosurgery Rounds, St. Michael’s Hospital, Friday, November 27, 2009. Queen B-I GFLT, Paul Marshall. Dr. Fady T. Charbel, Professor and Head, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Illinois at Chicago. “Quantification of cerebral vessels flow: Is it relevant?”

Botterell Lecture, December 14-15, 2009

American College of Surgeons Scholarships and Fellowships. Applications available on line at www.facs.org. Closing date November 2, 2009


NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT SEMINARS, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 1527, The Hospital for Sick Children unless otherwise noted.
Friday, November 6, 2009
TOPIC: Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
Dr. L. Macdonald “Overview – incidence, diagnosis, imaging, angio negative SAH”
Dr. L. Macdonald “Perioperative management and surgical treatment of ruptured aneurysms”
Dr. R. Willinsky “Endovascular treatment of ruptured aneurysms”
Dr. S. Mohammed “Case presentation”

Friday, November 13, 2009
TOPIC: Cerebral Vasospasm
Dr. L. Macdonald “Overview”
Dr. P. Howard “Diagnosis and INR treatment”
Dr. S. Stone “Medical management of vasospasm”

Friday, November 20, 2009
TOPIC: Brain AVMs
Dr. J. Spears “Overview - incidence, natural history, imaging”
Dr. K. ter Brugge “Endovascular treatment and pediatric AVMs”
Dr. M. Schwartz “Radiosurgery”
Dr. C. Wallace “Surgical treatment”

Friday, November 27, 2009
City-Wide Neurosurgery Rounds at St. Michael’s Hospital
Queen B-1 GFLT, Paul Marshall
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Fady T. Charbel, Professor and Head, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Illinois at Chicago
0700-0800  Dr. Fady T. Charbel
  “Quantification of cerebral vessels flow: Is it relevant?”
0900-1200  Resident Case Presentations

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Thursday, November 26, 2009, 7-8 a.m, North Conference Room, The Hospital for Sick Children.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2009. Rm. 7247, 7th Floor, Black Wing