FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE
The Division of Neurosurgery hosted Dr Ihor Kurilets, a Ukrainian neurosurgeon who starred in the recent BBC Documentary, “The English Surgeon” this month. Dr Kurilets has been aided by Mr Henry Marsh, a neurosurgeon from the Atkinson Morley Institute in London England, who has travelled to the Ukraine on numerous occasions bringing instruments, microscopes, and equipment to Dr Kurilets’ hospital. The two have worked closely together on numerous neurosurgical cases in the Ukraine. The Documentary aired in Toronto on November 20th at the Institute of Medical Sciences Auditorium where Dr Kurilets was introduced by Dr Michael Schwartz. Please find attached a photograph of Dr Kurilets with me at Sick Kids Hospital earlier this month.

The first City Wide Rounds of this Academic Year was held at St Michael’s Hospital, and hosted by Loch Macdonald and colleagues. Dr Fady Charbel, Professor and Chairman of the University of Illinois, was the featured guest speaker. Dr Charbel spoke on his research work examining the relationship between cerebral blood flow and ischemia in patients with cerebrovascular disease. Afterwards, he reviewed clinical cases with the residents. Please find attached a photo of Dr Charbel with Loch Macdonald and the residents in the program.

HONOURS AND AWARDS
D.J. Cook has been granted the 2009 PSI Resident Research Prize for his paper entitled “Re-ENACTing the ENACT in Gyrencephalic non-human primates: A reverse-engineered solution to the missing link in translational stroke research”.

Michael Taylor received a Canadian Cancer Society Award for Excellence in Cancer Research. November 16, 2009

Michael Taylor was appointed to the Central Nervous System Tumor Disease Committee, Children’s Oncology Group (COG)

Michael Taylor was appointed as Associate Section Editor (Pediatrics), for Neurosurgery

Gregory Hawryluk has been awarded the 2010 Synthes Spinal Cord Injury Resident Research Award.

Shobhan Vachhrajani received a CIHR Fellowship from the February competition.

Ab Guha received a 1 year grant from Novartis: for his work on “Pre-clinical Evaluation of Nilotinib in Vestibular Schwanonnomas”.

Loch Macdonald received a 3 year grant from the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology Edison Innovation R&D Fund, for his work on “Subarachnoid nimodipine treatment for vasospasm”.

Michael Fehlings was awarded a 3-year grant from CIHR for his project entitled “Investigation of induced pluripotent stem cells, derived by novel, non-viral transposition reprogramming, as a regenerative strategy for spinal cord remyelination”.

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”.

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.

Michael Fehlings was successful in obtaining funding for 5 years for the NeuroDevNet Network Center of Excellence (NCE).

PUBLICATIONS


Mukherjee, J, DeSouza, LV, Micaleff, J, Karim, Z, Croul, S, Siu, KWM, Guha, A: Loss of Collapsin Response Mediator Protein1 (CRMP1) as Detected by iTRAQ Analysis, Promotes Invasion of Human Gliomas Expressing Mutant EGFRvIII Cancer Res. 15;69(22):8545-54, 2009


Bernstein M. How to keep your brain in fighting form. Medical Post, pg.55, November 2009

Kattail D, Furlan JC, Fehlings MG. Epidemiology and clinical outcomes of acute spine trauma and spinal cord injury: Experience from a specialized spine trauma center in Canada in comparison with a large national registry. J Trauma. 67(5): 936-43, 2009


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Michael Tymianski was an invited speaker at the XXII International Symposium, Colombian Association of Neurosurgery in Cali, Colombia, Nov 12-16 2009. 1/"Natural history and

Michael Tymianski was an invited Speaker at Neuroscience Rounds, Hamilton General Hospital, “ENACT: Evaluating Neuroprotection in Aneurysm Coiling Therapy”. Nov 27 2009


Michael Taylor was an Invited Speaker at the 9Th Annual Frye-Halloran Symposium on Brain Tumor Biology. “Role of Epigenetics in the Pathogenesis of Pediatric Brain Tumors”. Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, November 2009

Jim Rutka was an Invited Speaker at the meeting of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery. “The Guanine Nucleotide Exchange Factor SWAP70 Modilares Glioma Invasion and Migration”. Palm Beach, FL, November 5, 2009

Gregory Hawryluk debated Andrew Baker on the topic "Does decompressive craniectomy work in severe traumatic brain injury" at the St. Michael's Hospital Trauma Continuum Conference, Pantages Hotel and Spa, November 4, 2009.


Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the Canadian Arthritis Network: Annual Scientific Conference, “Pain is in the brain but depends on individual factors”. Vancouver, BC, Nov 2009

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the International Forum on Immunoglobulin Research, “Immunoglobulin G: An exciting, potential therapeutic approach for neurotrauma”. Fort Lauderdale, FL, November 19-22, 2009

ANSWER TO OCTOBER’S QUESTION (NEUROSURGE Volume 11, Issue 2)
Calcification of the internal carotid artery could serve to disrupt nerve fibres proximal to it. One such group of fibres includes parts of the optic nerve. In this case the affected component of the right optic nerve includes the lateral aspect, or those fibres that mediate vision associated with the nasal visual field of the right eye (B).
(See attached: Neuroanatomy – ICA – Carotid Siphon.jpg)

NOVEMBER’S QUESTION
Which of the following governs the direct release of a neurotransmitter?
A. Sodium influx
B. Sodium efflux.
C. Potassium influx.
D. Potassium efflux.
E. Calcium influx

PDF OF THE MONTH

In this paper by Abhaya Kulkarni and colleagues, the citation count profiles of papers published in general medical journals was examined using the Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar search engines. They determined that these 3 programs differ in their ability to assess citation count profiles, and this information should be taken into consideration when assessing the impact of a paper.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
http://www.aans.org/education/aans_sns_neurosurgical_online_sessions.asp

By going to this website, residents and faculty can view the Online Learning modules that were co-sponsored by the AANS and the Society of Neurological Surgeons. Topics are far-reaching and include items such as: The biology of traumatic brain injury to Craniostenosis to Management of the Patient with Spinal Instability. These are excellent slide show presentations complete with narratives, and residents in particular are encouraged to study from them.

VIDEO OF THE MONTH
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiaM-n0O0pg

By going to this website, you will see the endoscopic fenestration of a suprasellar arachnoid cyst. This is an excellent technique by which to treat these lesions which previously required CSF shunting.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Department of Surgery University Rounds, Friday December 4 at 7:30 am at Women’s college Hospital Auditorium. Clinical Epidemiology Rounds. Robin McLeod, Mary-Anne Aarts, Cagla Eskicioglu, Darlene Fenech. “Best Practice in General surgery – What has been accomplished and where are we going”.

Botterell Lecture, Dr. Daniel Barrow, Emory University, December 14-15, 2009


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

Friday, December 4, 2009
Intracranial Aneurysms
Dr. M. Tymianski “Surgical management of “complex aneurysms”
Dr. T. Marotta “Advanced endovascular techniques”
Resident Case Presentations

Friday, December 11, 2009
Brain AVMs and Fistulas
Dr. J. Spears “Cavernous malformations”
Dr. L. Da Costa “Cranial dural arteriovenous fistulas”
Dr. T. Krings “Spinal arteriovenous shunts”
Dr. K. O’Kelly and Dr. N. Etminan: Debate “Controversies in the management of cranial cavernous malformations”

Friday, December 18, 2009
Cerebrovascular Block
Topic to be announced

HEADS OF DIVISIONS MEETING
Dinner Meeting, Thursday, December 17, 2009 @ 7 p.m. Location TBD

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, 7-8 a.m., December 8, 2009, NCR