FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

The 61st Annual Meeting of Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) was held on October 1-6, 2011 in Washington, DC. Our Division was well represented with several residents and faculty participating as presenters and invited speakers. Congratulations to PGY4 resident Sunjay Sharma, who won the Synthesis Award for Resident Research on Brain and Craniofacial Injury.

We also congratulate PGY5 resident Gregory Hawryluk, who was the recipient of the Best Science Paper Award in this year’s Region XII Committee on Trauma resident paper competition of the American College of Surgeons. Greg has been selected unanimously by the Canadian Trauma Association to represent Canada at the American College of Surgeons Trauma Research competition in March 2012.

I am pleased to announce that the Stereotactic and Functional Fellowship at the Toronto Western Hospital has been accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training (CAST) of the Society of Neurological Surgeons. The fellowship, supervised by Division Chair Dr. Andres Lozano and Drs. Mojgan Hodaie and Taufik Valiante, is the first CAST-accredited stereotactic and functional fellowship in Canada, and the third in North America. This fellowship complements the CAST-accredited spine and pediatric neurosurgery fellowships at the University of Toronto.
Research Accomplishments

Measuring our research impact is important. An analysis of publications of our faculty neurosurgeons has revealed an increase in the total number of publications per year from 103 papers (or 4.48 papers per neurosurgeon) in 1999 to 277 papers (or 9.23 papers per neurosurgeon) in 2010. This information can be accessed by logging into the Members Only section of our website and navigating to Annual General Meetings | Papers per Neurosurgeon, 1999-2011.

The Division of Neurosurgery was well represented at the 2011 Meeting of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery Meeting held on Oct. 19-22 in Scottsdale, Arizona, having four Faculty in attendance. With six active Academy members (Drs. James Drake, Michael Fehlings, Andres Lozano, Loch Macdonald, James Rutka and Michael Tymianski), University of Toronto neurosurgery faculty comprise approximately six percent of the membership of this distinguished society.

The SpineNET Knowledge Forum Conference was held on October 21-22 at the Marriott Downtown Centre in Toronto. Chaired and organized by Dr. Michael Fehlings with the sponsorship of AOSpine, the conference featured half-day knowledge forums in the areas of spinal oncology, cervical and trauma.
On October 28-29, an AOSpine course entitled “Principles and Treatment of Spinal Disorders for Residents” was held at the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto under the leadership of course Co-Chair Dr. Eric Massicotte. We acknowledge the generous support of AOSpine and Synthes Canada, which allowed nine of our residents (Abdulrahman Al-dakkan Aria Fallah, Alireza Mansouri, Al Martin, Safraz Mohammed, Anick Nater, Ryan Nazar, Jessica Quan and Mehdi Shahideh) to benefit from the two-day principle-based introduction to spinal surgery and instrumentation given by distinguished neurospinal and orthopedic surgeons from across North America, including Dr. Michael Fehlings. Thanks to Sandi Amaral for organizational support.

HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Karen Davis was appointed to the CIHR Institute Advisory Board for the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction for a three-year term (effective Sep. 1, 2011).

Michael Fehlings has accepted an invitation to serve as an Associate Editor/Reviewer for the Global Spine Journal, the official journal for AOSpine International.

Gregory Hawryluk won the Best Science Paper Award in the 2011 Region XII Committee on Trauma resident paper competition of the American College of Surgeons and was the unanimous choice of the Canadian Trauma Association to represent Canada at the 2012 American College of Surgeons Trauma Research competition.

Andres Lozano was awarded a renewal of his Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Neuroscience. The CRC Secretariat awards Tier 1 Chairs for seven-year terms to outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields.

Loch Macdonald was the recipient of a Reviewer Excellence Award from the journal Neurosurgery.

Sunjay Sharma was awarded the Synthesis Award for Resident Research on Brain and Craniofacial Injury at the Congress for Neurological Surgeons 2011 Annual Meeting.

Alexander Velumian, Marina Samoilova and Michael Fehlings’ paper entitled “Visualization of cytoplasmic diffusion within living myelin sheaths of CNS white matter axons using microinjection of the fluorescent dye Lucifer Yellow” (Neuroimage 2011 56:27-34) was selected for inclusion in the Faculty of 1000, placing this article in the top two percent of published articles in biology and medicine.

PUBLICATIONS


Hawryluk GW, Furlan JC, Austin JW, Fehlings MG. Survey of neurosurgical management of central nervous system hemorrhage in patients receiving anticoagulation therapy: current practice is highly variable and may be suboptimal. World Neurosurg. 2011 Sep;76(3-4):299-303.


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Karen Davis was an Invited Plenary Speaker at the British Pain Society and Canadian Pain Society, joint scientific meeting. “Effect of attention or nerve injury on central pain processing”. Edinburgh, Scotland. June 2011.

Karen Davis was an Invited Workshop Chair and Speaker at the British Pain Society and Canadian Pain Society, joint scientific meeting. “Neuroethical issues related to the use of brain imaging in chronic pain patients: Can we and should we use brain imaging to diagnose chronic pain?” Edinburgh, Scotland. June 2011.

Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the Canada-Israel Technology Innovation Summit and the University of Tel Aviv, Sackler School of Medicine. “Brain Imaging of Pain, Attention and Plasticity.” Tel Aviv, Israel. July 2011.

Karen Davis was a Guest Speaker at Technion - Israel Institute of Technology & Rambam Health Care Campus. “Brain Imaging of the Neural Correlates of Pain, Attention and Plasticity”. Haifa, Israel. July 2011.
Karen Davis was an Invited Lecture at the Tel Aviv University, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions. “Brain Imaging of the Neural Correlates of Pain, Attention and Plasticity”. Tel Aviv, Israel. July 2011

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. i) “CNS Spine Trauma Course, Trauma Update (Part 2), Spinal Cord and Column Injury, Current management of SCI”; ii) (Moderator) “Contemporary management of traumatic spine and spinal cord injury”. Washington, DC. Oct 1-6, 2011.


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the Principles and Treatment of Spinal Disorders for Residents Course, University of Toronto Spine Program. i) “Bone Biology”; ii) “Module A: Suboccipital Trauma – Case 2: Odontoid Fractures”; iii) “Module B: Cervical Degenerative Disease – Case 1: C5/6 Disk Herniation with Radiculopathy (anterior and posterior options)”. Toronto, ON. Oct 28-29, 2011.


Andres Lozano was a Guest Speaker at the XXXVIII National Congress of LIMPE. “DBS effect on behavior and cognition”. Venice, Italy. Oct. 8, 2011.


Loch Macdonald was the 15th Annual Frank P. Smith Visiting Professor at the University of Rochester, Department of Neurosurgery. “Advances and Failures in Clinical Trials of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Future Directions”. Rochester, New York. Sep .22-23, 2011.

Michael Tymianski was an Invited speaker at the Canadian Stroke Congress 2011 Annual Meeting. “Neuroprotection is very much alive as a therapy to support neuronal longevity awaiting recanalization”. Ottawa, Ontario. Oct. 4, 2011.

FACULTY FOCUS

The new Faculty Focus series on our Division website provides a more recent and in-depth feature on one of our neurosurgical Faculty each month. Dr. Sunit Das was featured in October 2011, and Dr. Leo da Costa will be the subject of November’s Faculty Focus: http://neurosurgery.utoronto.ca/faculty/Faculty_Focus.htm

Each of our 28 outstanding faculty members will be covered, and the features will be compiled into a booklet used to promote our Division for fundraising purposes and to allow potential recruits and residents to get to know us better.

OCTOBER QUIZ

Match the brain stem nucleus to function.

A) Superior Salvatory Nucleus  1) accelerates peristalsis
B) Nucleus ambiguous  2) Hearing
C) Nucleus of the tractus solitarius  3) Saliva, parotid gland
D) Inferior Salvatory Nucleus  4) Turning the head
E) Superior Olivary Nucleus  5) Lacrimation
F) Dorsal Nucleus of the vagus  6) taste

Answer to September’s Question

Which of the following muscles are innervated by the median nerve?

a) Lumbricals 1 & 2  *
b) Abductor Pollicis Brevis  *
c) Adductor Pollicis Brevis
d) Abductor Digiti Minimi
e) Opponens Pollicis  *

PDF OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS


10th Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury. Armin Curt, Professor and Chairman, Spinal Cord Injury Center, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Nov. 25, 2011, The Old Mill Inn & Spa, 21 Old Mill Road, Guildhall, 3rd Floor, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.


RESIDENTS CORNER

DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

RESIDENT SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

November 4, 2011
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Cranial Trauma
Dr. Fred Gentili: Case Presentations

November 10, 2011
2011 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing, Main Auditorium 2-401
Guest Lecturer: Professor Jacques J. Morcos, Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Miami, Lois Pope Life Center, Miami, Florida

0900-1200 Case Presentations by University of Toronto Neurosurgical Residents
1300-1600 Clinical Research Presentations by University of Toronto Neurosurgery Residents
1600-1700 Professor Jacques J. Morcos
November 11, 2011
2011 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing, Main Auditorium 2-401

0800-0900  Professor Jacques J. Morcos
Cerebrovascular Surgery: The Future is not what it used to be ... and other random thoughts!

0900-1200  Mini-symposium: Neuro-oncology & Skull Base Surgery
1330-1600  Mini-Symposium: Cerebrovascular Disorders

November 18, 2011
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Spine II Block

Dr. Sumit Jhas: Cauda equina syndrome
Dr. DJ Cook: Surgical management Cauda equina syndrome
Dr. Victor Yang: Surgical technique lumbar decompression
Dr. Brian Drake: Adjacent level degeneration
Dr. Howard Ginsberg: Case presentations

November 25, 2011
10th Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury
Guest Lecturer: Professor Armin Curt, Professor and Chairman, Spinal Cord Injury Center,
University of Zurich, Switzerland
The Old Mill Inn & Spa, 21 Old Mill Road, Guildhall, 3rd Floor
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
November 2011 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430, date to be confirmed

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 7, 2011 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430 @ 7 am