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FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

The 62nd Annual Meeting of Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) was held on October 6-10, 2012 in Chicago, IL. Our Division was well represented with several of our faculty and residents participating as presenters and invited speakers. Congratulations to PGY4 resident David Cadotte, who won the Synthesis Award for Resident Research on Spinal Cord and Spinal Column Injury for his work entitled “Visualizing Plasticity and Altered Neuronal Signaling in the Injured Human Spinal Cord with fMRI”.

On October 17-20, the American Academy of Neurological Surgery (AacNS) held its 2012 Annual Meeting in Cape Cod, MA. AacNS President and R.S. McLaughlin Chairman of Surgery Dr. James Rutka delivered the Presidential Address entitled “W.S. Keith and the Founder Effect” on October 19. With six active Academy members, including AAnCS Vice-President Dr. James Drake and Executive Committee Member-at-Large Dr. Loch Macdonald, University of Toronto neurosurgery faculty comprise approximately six percent of the membership of this distinguished society.

The 45th W. Lougheed Microsurgical Course at the University of Toronto was held on October 22-26, 2012 at the Mount Sinai Hospital Surgical Skills Centre with four Toronto residents and four residents from across Canada taking part. This year’s guest faculty were Dr. Sepideh Amin-Hanjani (University of Illinois) and Dr. Ivan Radovanovic (Geneva University Hospital, soon to be at Toronto Western Hospital). We thank Course Director and Toronto Western Hospital Division Head Dr. Michael Tymianski and Ms. Sandi Amaral for organizing another excellent iteration of this educational event.
Toronto Western Hospital neurosurgeon Dr. Gelareh Zadeh has received a 3-year, $500,000 Terry Fox New Investigator Award, one of only three given in cancer research across North America, for the project entitled “Exploring Novel Mechanisms of Tumor Vascularization in Malignant Brain Tumors”. In addition to three Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grants awarded in 2012, it has been an excellent grants capture year for Dr. Zadeh. Well done.

Dr. Andres Lozano has been awarded a 5-year, $3.39M grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the project entitled “Deep Brain Stimulation for Alzheimer’s Disease” (NIH R01 AG042165; PIs: K Lyketsos, Johns Hopkins University and A Lozano, Toronto Western Hospital).

Dr. Michael Tymianski and 2012 Toronto neurosurgery graduate Dr. DJ Cook have published a paper in Science Translational Medicine describing work on a new translational paradigm for evaluating neuroprotectants in non-human primates that would be more effective than commonly used animal models in predicting efficacy in humans. This paper has been selected as one of our PDFs of the month: A Translational Paradigm for the Preclinical Evaluation of the Stroke Neuroprotectant Tat-NR2B9c in Gyrencephalic Nonhuman Primates. Cook DJ, Teves L, Tymianski M. Sci Transl Med. 2012 Oct 3;4(154):154ra133.

St. Michael’s Hospital fellow Antonio Di Ieva has been awarded First Prize for Research in Neuroscience at the 61st Congress of the Italian Society for Neurosurgery (SINch), in Rimini, Italy. The 10,000 Euro award was given for his project entitled “Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the microvasculature in normal brain parenchyma and brain gliomas: Comparison of the histological results with the ultra-high field (7 Tesla) MR findings”. Congratulations.

PGY4 resident Shobhan Vachhrajani was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation commencing on July 1, 2012. In this new role, Shobhan will contribute to the review and endorsement of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the entire Canadian neurosciences community. This will be a valuable contribution to academic neurosciences and to the care of our patients.

HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS – OCTOBER 2012

David Cadotte was awarded the Synthesis Award for Resident Research on Spinal Cord and Spinal Column Injury, presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Antonio Di Ieva was awarded First Prize for Research in Neuroscience at the 61st Congress of the Italian Society for Neurosurgery (SINch), in Rimini, Italy.

Michael Fehlings was appointed as a 2012 Active Fellow of the Scoliosis Research Society.

Michael Fehlings was elected as the AOSpine North America Chairperson for a 3-year term starting on August 1, 2013.
Michael Fehlings’ paper entitled “Anterior versus posterior surgical approaches to treat cervical spondylotic myelopathy: Outcomes of the prospective multicenter AOSpine North America CSM study in 278 patients” was ranked Best Paper at the 2012 NASS meeting in Dallas, TX.

Andres Lozano was awarded a 5-year, $3.39M grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the project entitled “Deep Brain Stimulation for Alzheimer’s Disease”.

Andres Lozano received the 2012 ICGP Senior Investigator Award from the International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology in recognition of important contributions to novel neurosurgical interventions for neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases, as well as mentorship and leadership in the field.

Arne Mehrkens, a research fellow with Drs. Mark Erwin and Michael Fehlings has received a $50,000 North American Spine Society Young Investigator Award for the project entitled “Mechanistic Determination of Notochordal Cell-Induced Anti-Apoptotic Signaling in Human Nucleus Pulposus Cells”.

Charles Tator was selected as the Gallie Surgical Lecturer for 2012 by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Michael Tymianski received the $25,000 Paul Morley Mentorship Award from the Canadian Stroke Network.

Shobhan Vachrajani was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee for the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation.

Gelareh Zadeh received a 3-year, $500,000 Terry Fox New Investigator Award for the project entitled “Exploring Novel Mechanisms of Tumor Vascularization in Malignant Brain Tumors”.

Gelareh Zadeh was appointed to the Research Committee of North American Skull Base Society

**PUBLICATIONS – OCTOBER 2012**


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS – OCTOBER 2012

Peter Dirks was an Invited Speaker at the 2012 Fetal Medicine Update at Mount Sinai Hospital. “Surgical Management of NTD”. Toronto, ON. Oct. 19, 2012.

Peter Dirks was a Guest Lecturer at the Chilean CNS meeting and gave four talks. 1) “Stem cells in pediatric brain tumors”. 2) “Treatment protocols for medulloblastoma and ependymoma”. 3) “Approach for pineal region tumors”. 4) “MoyaMoya Disease”. Santiago, Chile. Oct. 26, 2012


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Faculty and Speaker at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. 1) (Faculty) Dinner Seminar: “CSM – Front versus Back”. 2) “Management of spinal cord injury – current status and future directions”. 3) “Anterior versus posterior surgery for CSM”. He also served as Course Director for the course entitled “Trauma Update Part II: Spinal Cord and Spinal Column Injury”. Chicago, IL. Oct. 6-10, 2012.


Andres Lozano was an Invited Presenter at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. “Neuromodulation for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias”. Chicago, IL. Oct. 9, 2012.

Andres Lozano was a Guest Keynote Speaker at the 50th Anniversary Symposium of the Institute of Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering. “Electrical Stimulation to Adjust the Activity of Circuits and Networks in the Human Brain”. Toronto, ON. Oct. 10, 2012.


Andres Lozano delivered the ICGP Senior Lecture entitled “Some of the Tools We Have at Our Disposal to Discover Novel Treatments for Brain Disorders. Imaging, Animal models, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Serendipity” at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the International College of

Andres Lozano was an Invited Faculty at the 2012 RUNN Course. “Adjusting the Activity in Human Brain Circuits”. Wood’s Hole, MA. Oct. 30, 2012.


Charles Tator was a Guest Co-Speaker at the Hospital for Sick Children’s Department of Paediatrics Grand Rounds. “Concussions in childhood and adolescence: new information about the diagnosis and consequences of concussion”. Toronto, ON. Oct. 17, 2012.


Charles Tator was a Guest Speaker at the 12th Annual Behavioural Clinic Day hosted by the Behavioural Neurology Section, University of Toronto. “Sports concussion in Adolescents and Young Adults”. Toronto, ON. Oct. 19, 2012.


Michael Tymianski was a Guest Speaker at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. “Open Aneurysm Surgery: A 3-D Practical Course”. Chicago, IL. Oct. 6-10, 2012.

Michael Tymianski served as the Course Director the 45th W. Lougheed Microsurgical Course and gave three talks. 1) “Laboratory: Microvascular anastomosis on the turkey wing”. 2) “Human brain/whole head dissection anatomy and surgical approach to the vertebo-basilar junction”. 3) “Fellowship training and getting a job in neurosurgery”. Toronto, ON. Oct. 22-26, 2012.


Gelareh Zadeh was an Invited Lecturer at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. “Intracranial Real-time Imaging of Cancer Cells”. Houston, TX. Oct. 29, 2012.

IN THE MEDIA

St. Michael’s Hospital neurosurgeon Dr. Michael Cusimano was featured in the Toronto Star for becoming the first surgeon in Canada to use a 3D camera to remove a brain tumor. http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1278688--3d-camera-for-brain-surgery-a-big-leap-forward

PDFs OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acute Spinal Care, Triage and Management Symposium. St. Andrew’s Conference Centre, 150 King St. W., 27th Floor. Toronto, ON. 7:30 am-4:00 pm. Nov. 9, 2012.
Conference on Concussions and CTE – Latest Research Developments. Toronto Western Hospital, 2nd Floor Auditorium. 8:30 am-2:00 pm. Nov. 10, 2012.

Brilliance Ball Gala Evening to celebrate Dr. Fred Gentili and excellence in skull base surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital and University of Toronto. Liberty Grand, 25 British Columbia Road, Exhibition Place. Toronto, ON. Nov. 14, 2012. For more info or tickets, please visit www.brillianceball.ca

Dissection Workshop for Upper Extremity Peripheral Nerve, organized by Dr. Farhad Pirouzmand. All residents are invited to attend the didactic segment of the course from 0900-1030, but the dissection part of the course will be open to PGY3-5 residents who are currently on a clinical service and/or returning to clinical stream in July 2013. Nov. 16, 2012. Surgical Skills Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital. Toronto, ON.

2012 Tator-Turnball Lectureship. Susan Harkema, PhD, Rehabilitation Research Director, Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center, Owsley B. Frazier Chair in Neurological Rehabilitation; Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Louisville, KY and Director, Christopher and Dane Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network. Nov. 30, 2012. Toronto, ON.


Save the Date: 90th Anniversary and Homecoming, Division of Neurosurgery. Toronto, ON. Oct. 6-8, 2013. More info to follow.

RESIDENTS CORNER

DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY
RESIDENT SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Resident Seminars:

Friday, November 2, 2012
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

TOPIC: Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms
Dr. J. Spears “Overview, natural history”
Dr. V. Yang “Familial, multiple, associated diseases”
Dr. R. Willinsky “Imaging of unruptured intracranial aneurysms”
Dr. V. Yang “Current indications for treatment of unruptured intracranial aneurysms”
Friday, November 9, 2012  
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

**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. J. Spears “Surgical treatment”

Friday, November 16, 2012  
Hands-On Dissection Course: Upper extremity Peripheral Nerve  
Course Director: Dr. Farhad Pirouzmand  
Surgical Skills Lab, Mount Sinai Hospital

Friday, November 23, 2012  
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

**TOPIC: Intracranial Aneurysms**  
Dr. William Tucker “Medico-legal Aspects in Neurosurgical Practice"  
Dr. Tom Marotta “Flow diversion for aneurysm treatment”  
Dr. Michael Tymianski “Surgical management of “complex aneurysms”

Friday, November 30, 2012  
Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury  
Guest Lecturer: Susan Harkema, PhD  
Rehabilitation Research Director, Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center  
Owsley B. Frazier Chair in Neurological Rehabilitation  
Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Louisville, KY  
Director, Christopher and Dane Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING  
Tuesday, November 27, 2012 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, November 19, 2012 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430