From the Chairman's Office
On December 12, Toronto Western Hospital hosted the 30th Annual E. Harry Botterell Visiting Lectureship in Neurosurgery. We welcomed Dr. Kim J. Burchiel, John Raaf Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, Oregon Health and Science University, who delivered two excellent talks entitled “Deep brain stimulation electrode placement without microelectrode recording” and “Trigeminal neuralgia occurs and recurs in the absence of neurovascular compression.” Dr. Burchiel also participated in a highly interactive residents rounds session in the morning, and served on the judging panel for the 2012 William J. Horsey Prize competition, which recognizes the best clinical research presentations by University of Toronto neurosurgery residents. Congratulations to PGY5 resident Aria Fallah, who took first prize for his talk entitled “Anterior cervical discectomy and arthroplasty versus arthrodesis for adults with symptomatic single-level” and to PGY2 resident Alireza Mansouri who won second prize for his work entitled “Predictors of surgical candidacy in 414 epilepsy patients admitted to the EMU”.

PGY4 residents David Cadotte, Jeff Wilson, George Ibrahim and Shobhan Vachrajani have completed the first half year as mentors in our Division’s new PGY1 mentorship program. We thank them for an outstanding job in service to their junior colleagues and for ongoing effort and time in this important initiative for our Residency Program.

Andres Lozano received the 2012 Herbert Olivecrona Award and Medal at a ceremony on December 7 in Stockholm, in recognition of important contributions to the field of functional neurosurgery. Each year since 1976, the Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet and the Department of Neurosurgery, Karolinska University Hospital have honoured a neurosurgeon
with The Olivecrona Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the neurosurgical field, based on development of surgical techniques, pedagogical skills or scientific contributions.

Drs. Fred Gentili and James Rutka have published a piece in the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences in memory of the late Dr. Thomas P. Morley, past Chairman of our Division, who passed away on April 29, 2012. The article (Can J Neurol Sci. 2012 Nov;39(6):847-48) has been selected as our PDF of the Month.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we can reflect with a sense of collective pride on our tremendous accomplishments in 2012. We have been very fortunate to recruit Drs. Paul Kongkham and Mohammed Shamji to Toronto Western Hospital and to have Dr. Michael Tymianski accept the role as TWH Division Head. We have an exceptional group of five new PGY1 residents and twenty-three new fellows across our four hospitals, including three endovascular fellows at St. Michael’s Hospital and two inaugural Dan Fellows in Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. Our Faculty’s achievements include Drs. Charles Tator and Michael Fehlings’ receipt of the Reeve-Irvine Research Medal and Dr. Abhaya Kulkarni’s induction into the Society for Neurological Surgeons. These and the numerous other clinical, educational, research and teaching accomplishments of our Faculty, fellows and residents inspire us to aim even higher on these fronts in the coming year. We also pause to remember the passing of Patricia Fleming, wife of Professor Emeritus Dr. Ross Fleming and of past Chairman Dr. Thomas Morley.

To all Division members, family and colleagues, I extend best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year.

HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS – DECEMBER 2012

Antonio Di Ieva, a fellow at St. Michael’s Hospital, successfully passed the qualifying examination for appointment as Assistant Professor of Neuroanatomy at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria.

Michael Fehlings is the Lead Investigator on a 3-year grant from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation entitled, “Time is Spine”: Streamlining the pre-hospital transport of patients with acute traumatic spinal cord injury in Ontario.

Spyridon Karadimas won the 1st Place Basic Science Paper Award as selected by the Cervical Spine Research Society for his work entitled “The sodium channel/glutamate blocker riluzole is complementary to decompression in a preclinical experimental model of cervical spondylotic myelopathy (CSM): Implications for translational clinical application”.

Andres Lozano received the Olivecrona Award and Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of functional neurosurgery.

Cusimano MD, Nastis S, Zuccaro L. Effectiveness of interventions to reduce aggression and injuries among ice hockey players: a systematic review. CMAJ. 2012 Dec 3.


**VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS – NOVEMBER 2012**


James Rutka served as the 2012 Stuart Rowe Visiting Professor Lecture at the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pittsburgh and delivered two talks. 1) “Glioblastoma Invasion: Advances from the leading edge.” 2) “Translational Research: Fact or fiction?” Pittsburg, PA. Dec. 12, 2012.

**IN THE MEDIA**

Dr. Michael Schwartz, Division Head of Neurosurgery at Sunnybrook Hospital, collaborator Dr. Andres Lozano and PGY4 resident Nir Lipsman have been featured by CTV News for their
work on focused ultrasound for the treatment of essential tremor. The story and video can be accessed here: Revolutionary Treatment Uses Ultrasound to Stop Tumors.

PDF OF THE MONTH


FACULTY FOCUS

Taufik Valiante, MD, PhD, FRCSC

Dr. Valiante graduated from the MD/PhD program at the University of Toronto in 1997, with doctoral studies completed under the supervision of Dr. Peter Carlen at Toronto Western Research Institute. In that year he began his residency in the Neurosurgery Training Program at the University of Toronto, and he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2003. Dr. Valiante then pursued an epilepsy neurosurgery fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle, under the mentorship of Dr George Ojemann. There, he learned Dr Ojemann's technique of language mapping for patient's undergoing epilepsy surgery. In 2003, Dr. Valiante was recruited back to the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor and, as a CIHR Clinician-Scientist, he launched his research program in the field of electrophysiologal characterization of neuronal networks in epilepsy. His neurosurgical staff appointment is at the Toronto Western Hospital with a practice in adult epilepsy surgery. He currently serves as Co-Director of the Epilepsy Program at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre, University Health Network and is appointed as an Associate Member of the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto.

Current Appointments

• Co-Director, Epilepsy Program, Krembil Neuroscience Centre, University Health Network
• Assistant Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
• Associate Member, Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto

Recent Selected Peer-Reviewed Funding

• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), 2009-2012. Spatial and temporal characterization of hippocampal memory processes: studies in the normal brain and individuals with medial temporal-lobe epilepsy and excisions. Co-PI's: Valiante T, McAndrews MP; Collaborators: Cohn M, Protzner AB. $712,092
• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), 2012-2017. Transitional states of seizures: mechanisms and modulation. PI: Carlen P; Co-I: Valiante T. $705,670
  \textit{Signal processing of EEG for detection and classification of clinical brain states.}
  PI: Valiante T; Co-I's: Bardakjian B, Carlen P.
  $60,000

• UCB Pharma, 2011-2012.
  \textit{Lacosamide Anticonvulsant Actions on Epileptic Tissue.}
  PI: ; Co-I: Valiante T.

**Selected Distinctions and Awards**

• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Clinician-Scientist Award, Phase 1, 2003-2006
• Alan R. Hudson Faculty Teaching Award, Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, 2006
• Ross Fleming Surgical Educator Award for Excellence in Undergraduate or Postgraduate Teaching, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, 2006
• William J. Horsey Prize for Clinical Research, 1st Place, Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, 2002

**Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications**


**Selected Professional Activities**

• Member, Integrated Epilepsy Care Committee, Epilepsy Ontario, 2006-present.
• Executive Member, Effectiveness and Efficiency Committee, Epilepsy Toronto, 2007-present.
• Member, Performance and Planning Committee, Krembil Neuroscience Program, University Health Network, 2007-present.
• Member, Program in Neuroscience Distinguished Lecturers Selection Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 2009-present.

UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS


Canada-Wide Neurosurgery Practice Examinations.  Fri. Mar. 22, 2013.  9-11 a.m., Toronto Western Hospital, Fell Pavilion 6-103.

Royal College Review of the Division of Neurosurgery.  All Division members are requested to remain available during this period.  Apr. 7-12, 2013.


City-Wide Rounds at St. Michael’s Hospital.  7:00 a.m., Fri., Apr. 12, 2013.  Dr. Giuseppe Lanzino, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.  Location:  Li Ka Shing Institute, 209 Victoria St., Toronto, ON.  More information to follow.


Gallie Day, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto.  MaRS, 101 College St., Toronto, ON.  Fri., May 10, 2013.


Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) 2013 Annual Meeting.  Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA.  Jun. 7-11, 2013.

XV World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS) World Congress of Neurosurgery.

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

Division of Neurosurgery
Resident Seminar and Events Schedule

Friday, January 4, 2013
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

TOPIC: Intracranial Hemorrhage and Veno-Occlusive Disease
Dr. G. Hawryluk “Overview – amyloid, hypertensive, Factor VII, surgical treatment”
Dr. L. Da Costa “Intracranial Venous Anatomy”
Dr. S. Vachhrajani “Decompressive craniectomy for stroke”

Friday, January 11, 2013

Dr. D. Selchen “Medical management” relating to Carotid disease
Dr. J. Spears: Case presentations

Friday, January 18, 2013
Toronto Western Hospital, Fell Pavilion 6-103

In-Training Exam

Friday, January 25, 2013
Hospital for Sick Children, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

TOPIC: Spine Block 1

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, January 22, 2013 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, January 14, 2013 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430