NEUROSURGE

MONTHLY INFORMATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

January 10 marked the first Skype broadcast by the University of Toronto Brain School (pediatric block) to the Neurosurgery Program in Kijabe, Kenya, as part of International Surgery Rounds. This initiative has been led by PGY3 resident Alireza Mansouri, with a website component to come under the direction of Dr. Mojgan Hodaie. The Kijabe Hospital’s neurosurgery program, started by Dr. A. Leland Albright, is the only pediatric neurosurgical center in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. For more information about the Kijabe program, please visit: http://kijabehospital.org/?page_id=369 and http://www.uwhealth.org/about-uwhealth/annual-report/dr-a-leland-albright-lends-critical-neurosurgery-skills-to-hospital-in-kenya/15033.

On January 11, the 2nd Annual Symposium: Research on Concussion Spectrum Disorders, presented by the Canadian Sports Concussion Project, was held at Toronto Western Hospital under the leadership of Dr. Charles Tator assisted by Ms. Maria Vespa. The full-day event featured over 30 speakers and was very well attended with over 150 attendees.

James Rutka, R.S. McLauglin Chair of the Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, has been elected to the Order of Ontario, the Province's highest honour. Members of the Order have demonstrated a high level of individual excellence and achievement in any field benefitting the people of Ontario or anywhere in the world.
Michael Fehlings has been appointed as Vice Chair Research in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. The time commitment of this leadership role in university surgical research will require that he relinquish his role as Program Medical Director of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre. This is important since Michael will continue his active spinal surgery practice and continue to direct his productive lab program. Please join me in congratulating and supporting Michael in his new role.

Victor Yang and his wife Yvette are the proud parents of their second daughter Cheryl, who arrived on Jan. 28, 2014 weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Please join me in wishing all the best to the Yang family.

It is with sadness we remember Dr. N. Barry Rewcastle, past Faculty at the University of Toronto and University of Calgary, who passed away peacefully on Jan. 7 at Lion’s Gate Hospital, North Vancouver. Dr. Rewcastle had a long and distinguished career in the field of medicine and academics, until his retirement from the University of Calgary in 2003. http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?pid=169018582

With sadness we also reflect on the passing away of Dr. William Feindel, O.C., G.O.Q., MDCM, D. Phil. (1918-2014). Dr. Feindel, one of Canada's most distinguished neurosurgeons and third Director of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital (The Neuro) of McGill University and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), passed away quietly at The Neuro on Jan. 12 following a brief illness. Details of his remarkable and distinguished career in neurosurgery can be accessed at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montrealgazette/obituary.aspx?n=william-feindel&pid=169111150

Andres Lozano, who trained with Dr. Feindel as a junior resident at McGill and learned epilepsy surgery from him, had the honor of serving as the most recent and Feindel Lecturer in Montreal on December 17, 2013, just a few days before Dr Feindel’s death. As a mentor to a generation of McGill trained neurosurgeons, Dr. Feindel is remembered as a great man, a builder, someone who was widely admired and looked up to. He made enduring contributions to neurosurgery, to brain imaging and to putting Canadian Neurosurgery at the forefront of the world. (Photo, Left to Right: Dr Richard Leblanc Professor of Neurosurgery at McGill, Dr. William Feindel (seated) and Dr. Andres Lozano, Montreal, November 2013).
HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS – JANUARY 2014

James Rutka, R.S. McLauglin Chair of the Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, has been elected to the Order of Ontario.

Leo da Costa is the first winner of the $20M Head Health Challenge organized by the National Football League (NFL) and GE—receiving a $300,000 grant for his research on head injury.

Andres Lozano was selected to receive the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CCNP) 2014 Innovations Award, in recognition of outstanding and innovative research in the basic or clinical fields of neuropsychopharmacology.

Michael Fehlings and Charles Tator received a 2014 renewal grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation to continue and commence new trials with the North American Clinical Trials Network for the Treatment of Spinal Cord Injury.

Michael Fehlings received research funding from Baxter to investigate “Enhancing recovery following cervical spinal cord injury by modulating inflammation with IgG.

Michael Fehlings has entered a Clinical Trial Agreement with StemCells, Inc to conduct a “Phase I/II study of the safety and preliminary efficacy of intramedullary spinal cord transplantation of human CNS stem cells (HuCNS-SC®) in subjects with thoracic (T2-T11) spinal cord trauma”.

Gelareh Zadeh has been cross-appointed to the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Toronto.

Gelareh Zadeh has assumed the role of International Outreach Representative for Society of Neuro-oncology.

George Ibrahim received the Kenneth Shulman Award for best paper presented at the annual meeting of the Joint Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Pediatric Section.

PUBLICATIONS – JANUARY 2014


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS – JANUARY 2014


Andres Lozano was a Guest Speaker at the Neurosurgical Society of the Virginias. 1) “Resetting dysfunctional brain circuits”; 2) “The evolution of psychiatric neurosurgery.” White Sulfur Springs, WV. Jan. 24-25, 2014


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the MSC7000Y Regenerative Medicine Course in the University of Toronto. “Regenerative Neuroscience.” Toronto, ON. Jan. 23, 2014.

Michael Fehlings was a Guest Speaker at Hospital to Home: The Continuum of Care after SCI, Oatley, Vigmond Personal Injury Lawyers LLP. “Repair and regeneration of the injured spinal cord - An update on clinical, translational research.” Toronto, ON. Jan. 23, 2014.

IN THE MEDIA

Charles Tator was featured in by The Globe and Mail in a Health Advisor piece entitled “Toboganning is more dangerous than you think—here’s how to stay safe”. The story can be accessed at: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health-advisor/tobogganing-is-more-dangerous-than-you-think-heres-how-to-stay-safe/article16385149/

Leo da Costa was featured by the Inside Toronto for becoming the first international winner of the $20M Head Health Challenge, operated by the National Football League (NFL) and GE. Dr. da Costa will receive $300,000 to advance his research related to head injuries. The story and video can be accessed at: http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/4336711-sunnybrook-surgeon-a-winner-in-nfl-ge-head-health-challenge-contest/

PDFs OF THE MONTH


FACULTY FOCUS

James Drake, MSc, MBBCh, FRCSC

Dr. James Drake is a Professor of Surgery, Division Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children and holds the Harold Hoffman Shoppers Drug Mart Chair. He is a Senior Associate Scientist in the Sickkids Research Institute, leads the Centre of Image Guided Innovation and Therapeutic Intervention (CIGITI) and is co-lead of the Centre of Excellence in Image Guided Care. He is also Co-Director of the Centre of Mathematical Medicine at the Fields Institute at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Drake’s primary research and clinical interests relate to engineering applications to neurosurgery including hydrocephalus, image guided surgery and robotics. This encompasses the main themes of CIGITI which are broadened to include applications of imaging, robotics and simulation for all pediatric surgical disciplines. Dr. Drake has over 230 peer-reviewed publications, holds major grants from CIHR/NSERC and Brain Canada. His clinical interests relate to the investigation and management of hydrocephalus including the use of endoscopy, image guided surgery for brain tumours and epilepsy, and the management of complex spinal disorders.
Current Appointments
• Harold J. Hoffman/Shoppers Drug Mart Chair, Hospital for Sick Children
• Head, Division of Neurosurgery, Hospital for Sick Children
• Professor, Departments of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto
• Director, Image Guided Innovation and Therapeutic Intervention (CIGITI)
• Co-Lead, The Center of Image Guided Care, Centres of Excellence, Hospital for Sick Children
• Co-Director, Centre of Mathematical Medicine, Fields Institute, University of Toronto
• Director, American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery

Selected Peer-Reviewed Funding
• MaRS Innovation, 2012-2014.  
  *Anastomosis Tool Kit.*  
  Pl: Drake JM.  
  $85,000
• Garron Family Cancer Centre, SickKids, 2012-2013.  
  *Temperature measurement in cortical bone marrow during magnetic resonance guided focused ultrasound thermotherapy in a porcine model.*  
  Pl: Drake JM.  
  $50,000
• Neuroscience Mental Health Centre, 2012-2013  
  *MRgFUS for intraventricular hemorrhage of prematurity.*  
  Pl: Andrew James. Collaborator: Looi T and Drake JM.  
  $39,580
• Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), 2012-2013.  
  *Pneumatic Otoscopy.*  
  Pl: Drake JM.  
  $25,000
• Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), 2012.  
  *Optosim.*  
  Pl: Drake JM.  
  $25,000
• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), 2012-2013  
  *Temperature measurement in cortical bone and bone marrow during magnetic resonance of guided focused ultrasound thermotherapy in a porcine model.*  
  Pl: Drake JM.  
  $450,000

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications


UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Annual Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery Soiree. By Faculty invitation. ORO Restaurant, 45 Elm St., Toronto, ON. Feb. 24, 2014. 6-10 pm.

1st Annual Neurooncological Surgery Soiree. By Faculty invitation. The University Club, Fitzgerald Room, 380 University Ave., Toronto, ON. Mar. 3, 2014. 6-10 pm.


Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF) 49th Annual Congress. Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Banff, AB. Jun. 3-6, 2014.


Welcome BBQ for incoming Neurosurgery residents and fellows. At the Chairman’s home. Sun., Jul. 6, 2014. More information to follow.


RESIDENTS CORNER

DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY
RESIDENT SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

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

PEDIATRIC BLOCK

FEBRUARY 2014

Friday, February 7, 2014
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
Dr. J. Drake: Craniopharyngioma/optic glioma
Dr. J. Drake: Case presentations
Dr. A. Kulkarni: Misc. topic

Friday, February 14, 2014
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
Dr. K. Ter Brugge: Vein of Galen
Dr. P. Dirks: Hemorrhagic stroke and Moya-moya
Dr. P. Dirks: Case presentations
Friday, February 21, 2014
Toronto Western Hospital, Fell Pavilion 6-103
0900 sharp
2014 Canada-Wide Neurosurgery Practice Exam

Friday, February 28, 2014
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

Dr. C. Forrest: Craniosynostosis
Dr. C. Forrest: Positional plagiocephaly
Dr. M. Shamji: Case Presentations

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2014 @ 7:00 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 10, 2014, TWH, WW 4-430