FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

This month we have completed interviewing CaRMS applicants for the next academic year. Selecting our new residents is one of our most important undertakings, and our selection process is quite intensive involving a three day visit by the applicants. We thank the Residency Program Committee including Ms. Sandi Amaral and all of our Faculty and residents for helping select our 2015-16 incoming class.

Dr. Julian Spears has been selected as the interim Division Head of Neurosurgery at St. Michael’s Hospital, effective January 1, 2015. We thank past Division Head Dr. Loch Macdonald for his excellent leadership over the past five years, as he steps down to increase his focus on research and academic pursuits. Please join me in congratulating Julian and supporting him in his new role.

Dr. Suneil Kalia and his work on chaperone proteins in Parkinson’s disease was featured in an online profile by the Parkinson Society of Canada. The piece can be accessed at: http://donate.parkinson.ca/site/PageNavigator/PSCDonorNews/January2015/Research_Update_Jan2015.html

Al Martin (PGY4), Drs. Michael Fehlings and Andres Lozano and Dr. Alfonso Fasano (Neurology) have been awarded a 2-year $150,000 grant from the Rick Hansen Institute for the project entitled “Deep Brain Stimulation of the Pedunculopontine Nucleus to Improve Walking After Spinal Cord Injury.” Al is pursuing a PhD degree with Dr. Fehlings within the University of Toronto Surgeon-Scientist Program.

Teresa Purzner (PGY4) was named a Stanford SPARK Scholar, a program that mentors outstanding research trainees in translating academic drug discoveries to the commercial sector.
Teresa is pursuing a PhD degree in the laboratory of Dr. Jae Cho at Stanford University, where her project focuses on the use of mass spectrometry-based proteomics to study developmental signaling pathways in pediatric brain tumors. Her work is supported by SPARK funding and by a 2014 NREF fellowship.

Dr. Mojgan Hodaie, together with residents David Cadotte, George Ibrahim, Alireza Mansouri and Anick Nater and medical students Elie Sader and Philip Yee have launched the first fully online neurosurgery curriculum for the neurosurgery residents at the Preah Kossamak Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This three year venture is done in partnership with the NEURONproject, and local partners including Dr. Kee Park and Dr. Iv Vycheth, President of the Cambodian Neurosurgical Society. The first block is “Fundamentals of Neurosurgical Care”.

HONOURS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Anick Nater (PGY4; supervisor: Dr. Michael Fehlings) was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II/William Kerr Scholarship in Science and Technology, valued at $15,000.

Al Martin (PGY4), Michael Fehlings, Andres Lozano and Alfonso Fasano received a 2-year $150,000 grant from the Rick Hansen Institute for a study of deep brain stimulation following spinal cord injury.

Teresa Purzner (PGY4) was named a Stanford SPARK Scholar.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Michael Tymianski was an Invited Speaker at the Pre-Hospital Stroke Trial Meeting organized by Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Michigan Health System. “Update on the Frontier Trial”. Detroit, Michigan. January 14, 2015.

Michael Tymianski was an Invited Speaker at the Paramedic Rounds, Toronto Paramedic Headquarters. “The FRONTIER Trial – Field Randomization of NA-1 Treatment in Early
Responders: A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Determine the Efficacy and Safety of Intravenous NA-1 Initiated by Paramedics in the Field for Acute Cerebral Ischemia within Three Hours of Symptom Onset”. Toronto, ON. January 15, 2015.


Andres Lozano was a Guest Lecturer at the American University of Beirut (AUB). “A critical review of Deep Brain Stimulation in Depression: What should be done next?”. Beirut, Lebanon. Jan 10, 2015.


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the Engineering Science Regenerative Medicine Course (BME510). Toronto, ON. January 9, 2015.


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the Regenerative Medicine Course, Institute of Medical Science (MSC7000Y). Toronto, ON. January 22, 2015.

IN THE MEDIA

Suneil Kalia is featured in a Parkinson Society Canada article discussing his work investigating gene therapy for Parkinson’s disease. The piece can be accessed at: http://donate.parkinson.ca/site/R?i=b8R25RMTsoDAVZvUdGZcIg

Andres Lozano’s work on deep brain stimulation for movement and psychiatric disorders was featured in Globe and Mail article on leading neuroscientists in Toronto. The piece can be
PDF OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING NEUROSURGICAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS


Inaugural Hudson Lecture hosted by Toronto Western Hospital / Dr. Fred Gentili. Guest Speaker: Dr. Alan Hudson, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto; Past Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery; Past CEO, University Health Network. Fri., Apr. 24, 2015. More information to follow.


12th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament. May 30, 2015. All American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) members are invited. For more information regarding the tournament and post-tournament reception, visit www.neurocharitysoftball.org


RESIDENTS CORNER

Neurosurgery Resident Seminar Schedule and Events

Friday, February 6, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Fell Pavilion 6-103

Canada-Wide Neurosurgery Practice Exam (3-hours)
0900-1200: Arrive early to start at 0900 sharp

Friday, February 13, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Topic: Pineal Tumors

Dr. P. Dirks: Clinical Management of pineal tumors
Dr. Y. Meng: Differential diagnosis/presentation/neuropath
Dr. J. Wilson: Approaches to Pineal region/anatomy

Friday, February 20, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Tumor Block – Lectures to be determined

Friday, February 27, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Dr. A. Kulkarni: Craniopharyngiomas
Case Presentations

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 23, 2015, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438 (library)