Michael Tymianski (Division Head of Neurosurgery, Toronto Western Hospital) was appointed as the Harold and Esther Halpern Chair in Neurosurgical Stroke Research at University Health Network for a five year term, effective Nov 1, 2015. This represents the 16th endowed chair in our city-wide Division. Please join me in congratulating Michael on this major recognition.

On Nov. 11, Toronto Western Hospital hosted the 2015 Annual E. Harry Botterell Visiting Lectureship in Neurosurgery at the BMO Education and Conference Centre, Toronto Western Hospital. Professor Shekar Kurpad, (Director, Spinal Cord Injury Center, Medical College of Wisconsin) was this year’s Guest Speaker. He presented an engaging lecture entitled “Imaging for spinal cord injury: From roentgenography to magnetic resonance imaging”. This year’s William J. Horsey Prize for clinical research competition was chaired by Eric Massicotte with Dr. Kurpar as one of the judges. First Prize was awarded to Chris Witiw (PGY4) for his presentation entitled “Cost-Utility of Surgery for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy: Data from the AOSpine North American and International Studies”, and the Second Prize was awarded to Shervin Taslimi (PGY2) for his work entitled “Natural history of cavernous malformation: systematic review and meta-analysis, identifying source of heterogeneity”. Turnout was excellent with over 80 in attendance. We thank Program Chair Michael Fehlings and Ms. Sandi Amaral and Anoushka Singh for organizing this excellent event.
On Nov. 13, Charles Tator was honoured during an event celebrating the launch of the Krembil Research Institute, Toronto Western Hospital’s newly renamed research arm. In his remarks, philanthropist Robert Krembil described Toronto Western Hospital as “the house that Charles built”, and paid recognition to Dr. Tator’s pivotal role and tremendous ongoing impact in establishing the foundation for research at Toronto Western that has enabled it to develop into a renowned research hospital over the years. Dr. Tator was recognized by applause from the over 200 attendees, which included Her Royal Highness The Princess Edward, Countess of Wessex and UHN President and CEO Dr. Peter Pisters.
The 14th Annual Charles H. Tator-Barbara Turnbull Spinal Cord Injury Symposium was held on Nov. 13 at the BMO Education & Conference Centre at Toronto Western Hospital. This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Jan Schwab, William E. Hunt and Charlotte M. Curtis Chair, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He delivered an excellent keynote address entitled, “Spinal Cord Injury-induced Immune Deficiency Syndrome (SCI-IDS) – Clinical relevance and experimental evidence”. The event concluded with a tribute to Barbara Turnbull, who passed away in May of this year. The Toronto Star spoke to Charles Tator about Barbara Turnbull and this year’s symposium. The piece can be accessed at: http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2015/11/13/star-reporter-barbara-turnbull-honoured-at-first-spinal-cord-injury-symposium-since-her-death.html.

Taufik Valiante was promoted to Scientist at the Krembil Research Institute. Congratulations, Taufik, on this recognition of your research accomplishments.

Gelareh Zadeh and Julian Spears (Interim Division Head of Neurosurgery, St. Michael’s Hospital) and the co-directors of the University of Toronto Meningioma Consortium (COMIT) presented the inaugural consortium on meningiomas meeting and have assembled a twelve member team with city-wide representation from neurosurgery, radiation oncology, oncology, neuroradiology, neuropathology and neuropsychology. The first COMIT sponsored scientific meeting will be held jointly with the Society of NeuroOncology on Jun. 17-19, 2016 in Toronto.
HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Karen Davis received a 2-year, $150,178 grant as PI from the Mayday Fund for the project entitled “Development of a Pain Treatment Prediction Tool”.

Andres Lozano has been elected an honorary member of the Western Neurosurgical Society and of the Spanish Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

Pablo M. Munarriz (clinical fellow, Hospital for Sick Children) was the recipient of the Sanitas Prize (second place), awarded to the best medical resident trainee in Spain.

Michael Tymianski was appointed as the Harold and Esther Halpern Chair in Neurosurgical Stroke Research at University Health Network.

Taufik Valiante was promoted to Scientist at the Krembil Research Institute.

Gelareh Zadeh successfully passed the oral American Board of Neurological Surgeons (ABNS) exam on Nov. 10, 2015.

Gelareh Zadeh is the co-Director of the Elizabeth Raab Neurofibromatosis Program. Together with Dr. Vera Bril they formally announced the opening of the clinic on Nov. 25, 2015 at University Health Network. The multidisciplinary team is dedicated to comprehensive care for patients with NF1 and NF2. The clinic has over fifteen affiliated physicians and allied health members. The mission is dedicated to improving clinical care and translational research for the NF population.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the Update on Neuropathic Pain. “Brain and nerve abnormalities in neuropathic pain”. New Delhi, India. November 2015.


Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at BRAIN STATES: Characterization and neuromodulation by DBS. Department of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, University Hospital of Cologne. “Neuromodulation of neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders.” Cologne, Germany. Nov 13, 2015.


Andres Lozano was a Visiting Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College Grand Rounds. “Adjusting the activity in brain circuits.” New York, NY. Nov 23, 2015.


James Rutka was a Guest Lecturer at ENT Grand Rounds at the Department of Otolaryngology. “Perspectives from a Department Chair and Editor-in-Chief”. Toronto, Ontario. November 27, 2015.


Mohammed F. Shamji was an Invited Speaker at the Motion Sparing Technologies Meeting. Montreal, Quebec. November 20-22, 2015.


Gelareh Zadeh served as the Scientific Co-Chair and Speaker for the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) and the Society for CNS Interstitial Delivery of Therapeutics (SCIDOT) 2015 SNO-SCIDOT Joint Conference on Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS. 1) “Surgical Resection for GBM - Why Not a Cure?”; 2) Session Moderator: Therapeutic Delivery to the CNS – Challenges. San Antonio, Texas. Nov. 18-19, 2015.

Gelareh Zadeh served as the scientific Co-Chair and speaker of 2015 Society of Neuro-oncology (SNO) Annual meeting. The SNO Meeting is the largest international scientific meeting of neuro-oncology with 2,300 attendees, 950 abstracts, 18 sunrise sessions, 9 concurrent scientific sessions, 17 lunch seminars and 2 mini-symposia on precision medicine and immunotherapy. 1) Welcome Session Chair and Moderator for top abstracts; 2) “Challenges from the Surgical Perspective”—EANO/SNO Joint Sunrise Session on Neuro-oncology Guidelines; 3) “Role of SRS in Management of Meningiomas”—Elekta Sponsored Scientific Session on Gliomas, Meningiomas & More: The Increasing Relevance of Radiosurgery; 4) Meningioma Consortium Sunrise Session Chair and Presenter; 5) Committee Chair, International Outreach; 6) WFNS/SNO Session Chair: Challenges and Pitfalls of Surgical Clinical Trials; 7) “Mechanisms
of Anti-angiogenesis Escape”—Tumor Biology Session; and 8) Closing Session Chair—

IN THE MEDIA

Todd Mainprize’s work on opening the blood-brain barrier using focused ultrasound was
featured in an article in The Globe and Mail. The piece can be accessed at:
blood-brain-barrier-procedure-using-focused-ultrasound-waves/article27171384.

PDFs OF THE MONTH


Nov 23.

Jhas S, Pirouzmand F. Obtuse-angled Laminotomy as a Modification of Multilevel Laminectomy

Macdonald RL. Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and Loss of Consciousness. JAMA Neurol. 2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 2016

Ottawa, ON.

Surgeon-Scientist Traiing Program (SSTP) Career Night. Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Peter
Giligan Centre for Research and Learning (686 Bay Street). Time and agenda TBA.
April 2016

June 2016

13th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament. June 11, 2016. All American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) members are invited. For more information regarding the tournament and post-tournament reception, visit www.neurocharitysoftball.org. Additional information TBA.


September 2016


RESIDENTS’ CORNER

Neurosurgery Resident Seminar Schedule and Events- thebrainschool.net

DECEMBER 2015

Friday, December 4, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Topic: Intracranial Hemorrhage and Veno-Occlusive Disease

David Gladstone: Overview – ICH, amyloid, hypertensive, Factor VII
Shree Bhalerao: Psychiatry and neurosurgery
Victor Yang / Francois Mathieu: ICH and STICH trials

**Friday, December 11, 2015**
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

*Topic: Intracranial aneurysms*
Leo da Costa: Current indications for treatment of unruptured intracranial aneurysms
Tom Marotta: Flow diversion for aneurysm treatment
Tom Marotta: Endovascular treatment of ruptured aneurysms

**Friday, December 18, 2015**
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

*Topic: Spinal AV shunts, dural AV fistulas, and cavernous malformation*
Timo Krings: Spinal arteriovenous shunts
Leo Da Costa: DAVF and cavernous malformations
Leo Da Costa: Case Presentations
Victor Yang: Familial, multiple, associated diseases

**RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, December 21, 2015, TWH, WW 4-430

**NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING**
Monday, December 7, 2015, 6:30 p.m., location t.b.d.