FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

On November 11 the 2016 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery was hosted by Toronto Western Hospital at the Krembil Discovery Tower. This year’s guest lecturer was Dr. Philip A. Starr, Professor and Dolores Cakebread Endowed Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Starr gave two excellent talks, the opening lecture entitled “Chronic ambulatory brain recording in Parkinson’s disease using a totally implantable device” and the closing Botterell Lecture entitled “Interventional MRI for placement of DBS electrodes: technique and experience at UCSF.” Dr. Starr also served as a panel judge for the 2016 William J. Horsey Neurosurgical Resident Prize Competition. Farshad Nassiri (PGY3) won first prize for his project “A Propensity Score-Matched Study of the Use of Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Agents Following Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage”, and Jetan Badhiwala (PGY3) received second prize for his work “Endovascular Thrombectomy for Acute Ischemic Stroke: A Meta-analysis”. Following the competition, residents enjoyed an engaging lunch session with Dr. Starr. We thank program chair Dr. Suneil Kalia and Ms. Sandi Amaral for organizing an excellent event.
The 15th Annual Charles H. Tator and Barbara Turnbull Symposium took place on November 18th. Dr. Claes Hultling, MD, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, was this year’s Visiting Professor. He delivered the Tator-Turnbull Symposium Keynote Address/CPIN Distinguished Lecture entitled “New Front for Injured Backs” to an audience of approximately 200 attendees. This year’s event featured a moving tribute to Barbara Turnbull, who passed away in May 2015. We thank Dr. Michael Fehlings for chairing another successful iteration of this event and to Ms. Anoushka Singh for her work organizing and promoting the symposium.
Todd Mainprize has been promoted to Deputy Surgeon-in-Chief at Sunnybrook Hospital. Dr. Mainprize joined the Sunnybrook Health Science Centre in 2008, where his research focuses on neuro-oncology, and he was appointed Division Head of Neurosurgery at Sunnybrook in March 2016. Please join me in congratulating Todd on this well-deserved recognition of his leadership.

Michael Taylor received the 2016 Lister prize from the Department of Surgery. The Prize is given in recognition of outstanding and continuing productivity of international stature as evidenced by research publications, grants held, students trained and other evidence of stature of the work produced. Congratulations to Michael on his outstanding research career to date.

Mojgan Hodaie was presented with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor of Monisaraphon by the Kingdom of Cambodia for her efforts in the development and strengthening of neurosurgery in Cambodia. This is one the highest civilian honors bestowed by the country for services in the fields of literature and the fine arts, education, justice, administration, and science. We congratulate Mojgan on her tremendous efforts in international neurosurgery.
HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Mojgan Hodaie was presented with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor of Monisaraphon by the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Andres Lozano was named to the 2016 Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers and Most Influential Scientific Minds for the period 2003-2014. The Highly Cited Researchers list includes researchers that publish the top 1% most cited works in their subject and the given year of publication.

Todd Mainprize was appointed Deputy Surgeon-in-Chief at Sunnybrook Hospital.

Michael Taylor received the 2016 Lister Prize.

Jetan Badhiwala (PGY3) received the 2016 Horsey Prize, second place.

Deep Guha (PGY4) received a Charles Kuntz Scholar Award from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves for his work entitled “Optical Topographic Imaging for Intra-Operative Three-Dimensional Navigation in the Cervical Spine: Accuracy Validation and Initial Clinical Feasibility”.

Allan Martin (PGY4) received a Charles Kuntz Scholar Award for his work entitled “Quantitative Multi-Parametric Spinal Cord MRI Detects Subclinical Tissue Injury in Asymptomatic Cervical Spinal Cord Compression”.

Farshad Nassiri (PGY3) received the 2016 Horsey Prize, first place.

Chris Witiw (PGY5) received the Fielding Resident/Fellow Research Award (Second Prize) at the Cervical Spine Research Society 44th Annual Meeting.
**Dr Allan D Levi, MD, PhD, FACS**

My neurosurgical training spanned over a decade, from July 1986 to December 1996, and included a residency at the University of Toronto, two fellowships and a PhD in the neurosciences. I had the incredible fortune to have as mentors some of the giants in the field of neurosurgery, including Dr Charles Tator - University of Toronto; Dr Volker Sonntag – Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix; and Drs Barth Green and Roberto Heros - University of Miami, as well as a world-class neuroscientist - Dr Richard Bunge - who served as my PhD advisor at the University of Miami. The University of Miami Department of Neurosurgery, including the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, fosters an environment of sub-specialization and has permitted me to focus my efforts on the surgical treatment of diseases of the spine and spinal cord and peripheral nerves.

I am currently the Chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Miami (UM) MILLER School of Medicine and Chief of the Neurosurgical Service at Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) and I have held the Robert M Buck Distinguished Chair in Neurological Surgery since 2012. We have recently increased our faculty to 22 members and provide services for all neurosurgery sub-specialties. Our faculty cover four hospitals, perform over 13,000 patient visits and 4,500 operative cases per year and UM/ JMH is one of the largest neurosurgical training programs (21 residents and 9 fellows) in the US. We have a robust research program and are currently ranked 4th in NIH funding by Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis - the largest research division within the department - has 30 faculty members.

My PhD in the neurosciences and research during my post-doctoral fellowships examined the biology of the human Schwann cell and one of my major research focuses over the past 22 years has been translational research in this area. The findings have been published in journals such as the Journal of Neuroscience, PNAS and Experimental Neurology. This laboratory environment has been an excellent opportunity for our residents and fellows to gain research experience. The investigations performed in the lab have been funded from
various sources including the MRC, NIH/ NINDS, DOD, State of Florida, foundation grants, industry and philanthropic support. Of my approximately 125 peer-reviewed publications, 30 book chapters and 2 books, about a third are in the basic sciences.

I served as the neurosurgical spine fellowship director from 1998 – 2015 and the program has grown and we now train an average of 3 - 4 spine fellows/ year. Over the past 17 years we have trained 53 external fellows (11 from Canada) and 18 infolded fellows. At a national level, I have been very involved in courses for residents, fellows and young neurosurgeons. Over the last 18 years, I have been teaching and organizing a course that prepares neurosurgeons for their oral board examinations - a requirement for board certification in neurosurgery. The Goodman Oral Board Course is a bi-annual offering of the AANS and I have served as national director for the last 9 years. I am an elected member of two of our most prestigious neurosurgical societies - the American Academy of Neurosurgery and the Senior Society of Neurological Surgeons.

I am married to Teresa Rodriguez, who is a nationally syndicated journalist with a Spanish language investigative 60 minute television show on Univision. Our 4 children (David, Jessica, Julian and Victor) range in age from 21 - 30 and all but the ‘baby’, who is training to be an aerospace engineer, are working. I love to run and bike and see my Toronto colleagues at meetings and the NY Central Park Charity softball tournament! I always feel deeply indebted to my mentors and fellow trainees from the University of Toronto for their support and teaching.

- Allan Levi

**PUBLICATIONS**


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Michael Fehlings was an Invited Keynote Speaker at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) TQIP - Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP). 1) “Timing of Fixation in Spine Injured Patients.” November 7-11, 2016. Orlando, Florida.


Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the MSC7000Y Lecture at the University of Toronto. “Regenerative Neuroscience.” November 17, 2016. Toronto, Ontario.

Michael Fehlings was the Chairman and Organizer of the 15th Tator-Turnbull Symposium – University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital. He was also a Speaker at the event. “Can neural stem cells regenerate the injured spinal cord? Hope or hype?” November 18, 2016. Toronto, Ontario.

Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at the 4th Year Advanced Neuroscience Course at the University of Toronto. “Trends in Neuroscience.” November 28, 2016. Toronto, Ontario.

Mojgan Hodaie was an Invited Keynote Speaker at the Cambodian Neurosurgical Society 6th Neurosurgery Education Symposium. November 16-17, 2016. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mojgan Hodaie and medical student Florentina Teodorascu organized a two-day neurosurgery resident education workshop at the Preah Kossamak Hospital. November 18-19, 2016. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.


Andres Lozano served as Course Co-Director and was a Faculty Speaker at the Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) International Academy. “New indications and the future of DBS.” Nov 1-5, 2016. Toronto, Ontario.

Andres Lozano was an Invited Keynote Speaker at the 24th Annual Wake Forest Surgical Sciences Residents’ and Fellows’ Research Day. Wake Forest School of Medicine, Division of Surgical Sciences. “Advancing the Frontiers of Functional Neurosurgery.” Nov 8, 2016. Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Global Summit, Jefferson Educational Society. “Deep brain stimulation: Parkinson’s Alzheimer’s, depression, and the switch to turn them off.” Nov 9, 2016. Erie, Pennsylvania.

Andres Lozano was a Guest Speaker at the 2nd International Meeting of the Neurotranslation Society—Frontiers of Brain Mapping and Therapeutics. ”Emerging applications of Focused Ultrasounds in neurosurgery” Nov 17, 2016. Milan, Italy.


Andres Lozano was an Invited Faculty at the 2016 Comprehensive Clinical Neurosurgery (CCN) Review Couse. 1) “Introduction to surgical anatomy and physiology for the Pain and functional neurosurgeon” 2) “Surgical management of movement disorders and stereotactic surgery” 3) “Surgical management of pain and spasticity.” Nov 29, 2016. Krakow, Poland.

Michael Tymianski served as the Course Co-Director at the 53rd W. Lougheed Microsurgical Course. He presented two lectures. 1) “Microvascular anastomosis on the turkey wing,” 2) “Microvascular anastomosis on the rat.” October 3, 2016. Toronto, ON.

Michael Tymianski was the Invited Lecturer at the Abbie Memorial Lecture, Faculty of Health + Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide. “Anatomy of stroke drug development: A David and Goliath Story.” October 25, 2016. Adelaide, Australia.

Michael Tymianski was a member of the Steering Committee at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke workshop “Translational Stroke Research: Vision and Opportunities.” “What can we learn from clinical trials to inform preclinical research?” November 1-2, 2016. Bethesda, MD.

**IN THE MEDIA**

Michael Cusimano and James Rutka discuss the dangers of unregulated concussion clinics in an article published by CBC, which is accompanied by a video. The piece can be accessed at: [http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/concussion-hotline-baseline-testing-treatment-industry-for-profit-unregulated-1.3833158](http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/concussion-hotline-baseline-testing-treatment-industry-for-profit-unregulated-1.3833158)

Mark Erwin discusses his work on disc degeneration in an article published by Nass Daily News. The piece can be accessed at: [http://www.nassdailynews.org/best-papers-focus-on-disc-regeneration-pelvic-incidence/](http://www.nassdailynews.org/best-papers-focus-on-disc-regeneration-pelvic-incidence/)

CBS News has published a video and article about a patient receiving electrodes in her brain as part of a clinical trial of deep brain stimulation for Alzheimer’s disease led by Andres Lozano.

PDFs OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 2017

Fifth Annual Symposium: Research on the Concussion Spectrum of Disorders. Toronto Western Hospital BMO Education & Conference Centre, 60 Leonard Avenue - Krembil Discovery Tower, Toronto, ON M5T 2S8. Keynote speakers to be announced. January 21st, 2017. 8:00am - 5:00pm. Visit https://ers.snapuptickets.com/ers/online-registration-conference.cfm?y=ZWlkPTE4MjQmbGFuPWVuZw for more information and to register.

February 2017


April 2017


May 2017


June 2017

14th Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament. June 3, 2017. All American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) members are invited. For more information regarding the tournament and post-tournament reception, visit www.neurocharitysoftball.org.

September 2017

October 2017

RESIDENTS’ CORNER

Registration is now open for the 5th Annual Ottawa Neurosurgery Review Course, taking place from February 6-11, 2017. For more information visit http://uocal.uottawa.ca/en/node/16947. Register here: https://eventscpd.med.uottawa.ca.

Brain School Schedule & Events - thebrainschool.net

SPINE BLOCK - DECEMBER 2016

Friday, December 2, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Topic: Peripheral Nerve
Dr. Farhad Pirouzmand: Management of traumatic brachial plexus injuries
Dr. Chris Pasarikovski: Management of peripheral nerve tumors
Dr. Chris Pasarikovski: Case Presentation

Friday, December 9, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Dr. Henry Ahn: Degenerative Lumbar: Deformity, when do we need for fusion
Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case Presentations
Resident: Case Presentations
Friday, December 16, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Dr. Mohammed Shamji: Neuropathic Pain: If you don't have pain these patients are happy to share theirs
Dr. Mohammed Shamji: Case Presentations

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 19, 2016, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 6:30 p.m., location t.b.d.