FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

Victor Yang received FDA and Health Canada approval for his optical topographical imaging technology for spinal navigation created with 7D Surgical. The Machine-vision Image Guided Surgery (MIGS™) system advances optical neuronavigational technique and is the first of its kind. Congratulations to Victor and his team for developing this technology that will enhance spinal imaging for neurosurgeons across North America. A press release can be accessed at: http://www.meddeviceonline.com/doc/d-surgical-receives-fda-k-and-health-canada-mdl-guidance-system-for-spine-surgery-0001 and a related YouTube video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfCeh38tULk.

Deep Guha (PGY4; supervisor: Victor Yang) was selected to receive the Sanford J. Larson, MD, PhD Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons for his work titled “Optical Topographic Imaging for Intra-Operative Three-Dimensional Navigation in the Cervical Spine: Accuracy Validation and Initial Clinical Feasibility”.

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Taufik Valiante received a two-year, $60,000 EMHSeed grant for the work entitled, “A Clinical Study of Seizure-Aborting Implantable Neuro-stimulation Efficacy in Treating Drug-Resistant Epilepsy” (Co-PI: Roman Genov).
Dr. Jennifer Brown B.Sc., M.Sc., M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.(C)

Jennifer Brown began her medical education by obtaining a B.Sc. in Anatomy from McGill University in 1986. She graduated from medical school at McGill in 1990. While obtaining those degrees, Jennifer earned several awards and scholarships.

Jennifer then spent two years in the Core Surgery Programme at Queen’s University in Kingston, and then entered the Neurosurgery Programme at the University of Toronto and was certified in Neurosurgery by the R.C.P.S.C. in 1998. During her residency, Jennifer did research in neurotrauma at St. Michael’s Hospital, and earned an M.Sc. from the Institute of Medical Science at U. of T. in 1996. She won several prizes while a resident, including the Bayer Prize for Neurocritical Care in 1996, and served as the Senior Resident Representative on the U. of T. Neurosurgery Residency Programme Committee.

Jennifer next went to Scotland to pursue fellowship training in general neurosurgery, complex spinal surgery and paediatric neurosurgery (1998-2000). She was recruited to the faculty of the Department of Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurological Sciences, in Glasgow, where she remains to this day, and now has British and Canadian citizenship.

Jennifer has filled a number of leadership roles in Scottish neurosurgery, including Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery in Glasgow (2005-2008), Clinical Lead to the Department of Neurosurgery in Glasgow (2009-2011), and from 2012 to 2015 was the Paediatrics Operational Lead in the Department of Neurosurgery in Glasgow. Jennifer has also served as National Paediatric Lead on the Managed Service Network (MSN) for Neurosurgery and is currently National Clinical Director and acting Chair for the Network.

The MSN for Neurosurgery in Scotland was formed in 2009, and coordinates the operations of the four neurosurgical units in Scotland. This Network, to which Jennifer has made major contributions, aims to manage the four units as a single service, with the goals of national management of service capacity, equity of access to specialist service, planning and management of subspecialties, including paediatric
neurosurgery, national workforce planning, national planning of service developments, nationally agreed standards, standard referral pathways and protocols, patient and public involvement and the promotion of research and academic neuroscience. Significant progress toward achieving these goals has already been made. The MSN has been involved in successful applications for a nationally designated service for Deep Brain Stimulation for movement disorders in Glasgow, and for Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy for gait improvement in both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Jennifer holds or has held key positions in the Scottish health care system, generally representing paediatric neurosurgery, and is a member of the Intercollegiate Examination Board for Neurosurgery. Jennifer’s academic interests are in paediatric and spinal neurosurgery, and she has published and given a number of presentations in these areas.

Jennifer claims to have toned down her sporting activities in recent years, but she still enjoys the outdoors, and gets up into the Scottish hills frequently. She also has a rather large garden in a rural setting, which has a burn (small stream) running through it, in a steep-sided glen, so tending this is justly referred to as ‘extreme gardening’. Perhaps to honour her Canadian heritage, Jennifer is currently experimenting with the Canadian series of explorer roses (with names like the Alexander Mackenzie, Henry Kelsey, George Vancouver and Martin Frobisher) bred by Agriculture Canada.

- By Bill Tucker

**PUBLICATIONS**


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Michael Fehlings was a Co-Director at Spine: Base to Summit. He was also a Guest Lecturer. “How and why are treating cervical central cord injury differently than 10 years ago? What is the current state of the art?” January 26-29, 2017. Beaver Creek, Colorado.


IN THE MEDIA

Charles Tator participated in the “We Can Do Better: Governor General’s Conference on Concussions in Sport” in Ottawa, hosted by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. Dr. Tator is featured in an interview about the conference and the future of concussion care, which can be accessed at: http://wwwuhn.ca/corporate/News/Pages/UHN_concussion_expert_joins_Governor_General_to_move_concussion_issue_forward.aspx.

PDFs OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 2017

2nd Annual Labatt Chair in International Neurosurgical Education. Hosted by Division of Neurosurgery, St. Michael’s Hospital. Keynote speaker: Dr. Robert Dempsey, Chairman and Manucher J. Javid Professor Neurological Surgery, University of Wisconsin. “The Idea of Global Neurosurgery, the Lessons Learned, and Mutual Benefits from Many Years of Experience in Global Neurosurgery.” Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, Room 241, 38 Shuter Street. Friday, February 3, 2017. 9 am.

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

Brain School Schedule & Events
thebrainschool.net

PEDIATRIC BLOCK - FEBRUARY 2017

Friday, February 3, 2017

The 2nd Annual Labatt Chair in International Neurosurgical Education
St. Michael’s Hospital, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, 38 Shuter Street, 2nd floor Room 241

Visiting Professor

Dr. Robert Dempsey
Chairman and Manucher J. Javid Professor Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Wisconsin
Chairman, Foundation for International Education in Neurology Surgery
Chairman, Co-ordinating Committee for International initiatives for the WFNS

0900-1000 Dr. Robert Dempsey
"Global Neurosurgery: Preserving What is noble in Neurosurgery"

1000-1200
Dr. R. G. Perrin: Noblesse Oblige
Dr. Mojgan Hodaie: Survey of Neurosurgery in Africa
Dr. Ab. Kulkarni: Building Research Infrastructure in Uganda – Lessons Learned
Dr. Ali Mansouri: Sources of Delayed Provision of Neurosurgical Care in a Rural Kenyan Setting

Case Presentations

Friday, February 10, 2017
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Dr. Uri Tabori: Supratentorial tumours in childhood (incl. Germ cell tumours, but excl. optic)
Dr. Cynthia Hawkins: Neuropathology of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Friday, February 17, 2017
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing 3-424

Canada-Wide Neurosurgery Practice Exam
Exam starts at 0900 sharp
Friday, February 24, 2017
In-training Practice Oral Exam
HSC, 6C-Atrium, 6th Floor, Neurosurgery Clinic

0900-1600

To be confirmed:
PGY4-6 Residents will be notified directly regarding their participation

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438