FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

Dr. Gelareh Zadeh has been appointed as the Wilkins Family Chair in Neurosurgical Brain Tumour Research at University Health Network. This newly created chair is the fifteenth endowed chair in our Division. Dr. Zadeh has a particular clinical and research interest in management of brain metastases and radiosurgery. We congratulate her on this important recognition of her career achievements to date.

Dr. Michael Dan, a former neurosurgeon and philanthropist, has been inducted to the Order of Ontario—the Province’s highest honour—for his contributions and support for Ontario hospitals, local charities, and First Nations health and human rights initiatives. Dr. Dan and his wife Amira are longstanding supporters of our Division, most recently establishing the Dan Fellowships in Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto and our city-wide Brain Tumor Bank, for which we are very grateful. Please join me congratulation Dr. Dan on this tremendous accomplishment. http://news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2015/02/new-appointees-to-the-order-of-ontario-1.html

Drs. James Rutka and Michael Taylor were recipients of 2015 Canadian Cancer Society Prizes. Dr. Rutka, the R.S. McLaughlin Chair of the Department of Surgery, was a co-recipient of the Robert L. Noble Prize, given to a researcher who has made outstanding contributions to biomedical cancer research. Dr. Taylor received the William E. Rawls Prize, awarded to a
researcher who has made exceptional contributions to research on cancer control. Congratulations on these remarkable achievements.

Dr. Paul Kongkham has been awarded as PI a 2-year $194,790 Innovations Grant from the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute for the project entitled “Genome-wide profiling of DNA cytosine methylation and hydroxymethylation patterns contributing to normal astrocyte differentiation and gliomagensis”.

Dr. Gelareh Zadeh received the 2015 American Brain Tumor Association Young Investigator Award, which is given in recognition of demonstrated outstanding potential for basic science research in the field of neuro-oncology.

Alireza Mansouri (PGY4) received a 2015 PARO Trust Resident Teaching Award, which is awarded to the top two resident teachers among all departments at the University of Toronto. The successful nomination was initiated by Deep Guha (PGY3) and supported by Christopher Witiw (PGY3) and Shervin Taslimi (PGY1). We are pleased by the strong level of support and camaraderie among our residents. We congratulate Alireza and thank all our residents for their important contributions to our teaching mission.

We are pleased to announce the first annual University of Toronto Endoscopic Neurosurgery competition for residents and fellows in training. Proposals are being accepted for research projects focused on the use of neuro-endoscopic simulation that can be completed within a one year time span. The application deadline is May 15, 2015. The winner will receive the necessary resources to conduct their study, plus a $5,000 joint scholarship offered by Drs. Gelareh Zadeh and Fred Gentili. For more detailed information, please see attachment and visit: http://neurosurgery.utoronto.ca/news/announcements/Resident_Research_Competition.htm.

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Karen Davis received as Co-I a two-year, $173,430 grant from the MSH-UHN AHSC AFP Innovation Fund for the project entitled “Ketamine infusion for refractory neuropathic pain - prediction and correlation of clinical outcomes with functional magnetic resonance imaging.” (PI: Bhatia, Anuj; Co-I’s: Davis KD, Venkatraghavan L and Peng P; Collaborator: Mikulis D.)

Paul Kongkham received as PI a 2-year $194,790 grant from the Canadian Cancer Society.

James Rutka was awarded the 2015 Robert L. Noble Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society.
Michael Taylor is the recipient of a 5-year $1,249,880 grant from the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute for the project entitled “Molecular heterogeneity drives the clinical behavior of childhood medulloblastoma”. The grant was co-funded by Brain Canada.

Michael Taylor received the 2015 William E. Rawls Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society.

Gelareh Zadeh received the 2015 American Brain Tumor Association Young Investigator Award.

Alireza Mansouri (PGY4) received 3rd place for Best Resident Research Paper at the North American Skull Base Society for the paper entitled “Surgically resected skull base meningiomas demonstrate a divergent postoperative recurrence pattern compared with superficial meningiomas” (supervisor: Dr. Gelareh Zadeh).

Alireza Mansouri received the 2015 PARO Trust Resident Teaching Award.

Teresa Purzner (PGY4) received the Louise Eisenhardt Travel Scholarship at the 83rd AANS Annual Scientific Meeting.

Jamie Purzner (PGY4) received the Columbia Softball Charity Award at the 83rd AANS Annual Scientific Meeting.

**PUBLICATIONS**


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Michael Tymianski was a Guest Speaker at the British Neurovascular Meeting. 1) “Development of PSD95 inhibitors for the treatment of iatrogenic and spontaneous stroke – A bench to bedside to curbside story”, 2) “Indications for high and low flow EC-IC bypass in the modern era”, 3) “Multidisciplinary management of unruptured anterior circulation aneurysms by open minicraniotomy or endovascular therapy - Analysis of costs and outcomes”. Sussex, UK. Feb 2-6, 2015.

Michael Tymianski was a Moderator for the Aneurysm oral abstracts session at the Stroke Conference. Nashville, TN. Feb 8-13, 2015.

Mohammed F. Shamji was Chair of the scientific session of the Canadian Spine Society Annual Meeting. Halifax, NS. February 25-28, 2015. He continues to serve as an executive board member this year.


Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the inaugural Conference of the Russian Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. “Adjusting the activity of dysfunctional circuits in the human brain to alleviate neurological and psychiatric disorders.” Moscow, Russia. Feb 20, 2015.


Mark Bernstein was a Visiting Professor at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, Providence Health System, where he taught awake craniotomy in the OR. “Awake Craniotomy for Brain Tumor: Lessons Learned from 1000 cases”. Santa Monica, CA. Jan 28-29, 2015.

IN THE MEDIA

Michael Taylor participated in a visit by The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, to the Hospital for Sick Children on World Cancer Day (Feb 4, 2015). He was awarded one of four brain cancer research grants announced that day by Minister Ambrose. Photos of the event can be accessed at: http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=928049

Andres Lozano was featured in a CTV News story about the results of his research treating Alzheimer’s patients with deep brain stimulation. The video and accompanying text story can be accessed at: http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/health-headlines/canadian-researchers-use-electricity-to-stimulate-brains-of-alzheimer-s-patients-1.2221623

PDF OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Harland Smith Lecture. Guest Speaker: Julian J. Pribaz. Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital. Fri. Mar. 6, 2014. 7:30am-8:30am. There will be a webcast of the event, which can be accessed by logging into http://webcast.otn.ca/ and choosing “Public” in the Live Events menu; the rounds will be included on this list.

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

MARCH

Friday, March 6, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Topic: Meningiomas

Dr. Nir Lipsman: Classification/presentation and general management
Dr. Michael Cusimano: Surgical considerations for removal
Dr. Julia Keith: Pathology of meningioma

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

Topic: Low Grade Gliomas

Dr. Paul Kongkham: Management of LGG
Dr. Osaama Khan: Evidence for resection
Dr. Norm Laperriere: Radiation for glial tumors

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

TOPIC: Pituitary Tumors

Dr. Fred Gentili: Neurosurgical management of pituitary tumors
Dr. Fred Gentili: Overview of skull base approaches (continuation of previous lecture held Jan 23rd)
Dr. Shereen Ezzat: Medical management of pituitary tumors
Friday, March 27, 2015
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Dr. Abhaya Kulkarni: Craniopharyngiomas
Case Presentations

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

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