FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

4th Annual Labatt Visiting Professorship in International Neurosurgical Education

On February 1st, the 4th Annual Labatt Visiting Professorship in International Neurosurgical Education was hosted by St. Michael’s Hospital Division of Neurosurgery at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute. This year’s speaker was Dr. Gail Rosseau, George Washington University, who gave a highly engaging lecture entitled “Global Neurosurgery: Accelerating Progress through Partnership.” The event was attended by approximately fifty Faculty, fellows, residents and trainees. Thank you to Labatt Chair Dr. Richard Perrin, Dr. Julian Spears (Division Head, Neurosurgery, St. Michael’s Hospital) and Ms. Ann Augello for organizing a successful fourth year of this event.
Winn Prize 2019

Michael Taylor received the 2019 H. Richard Winn, M. D. Prize from the Society of Neurological Surgeons. The Prize recognizes outstanding continuous commitment to research in the neurosciences by a neurological surgeon. Michael completed the neurosurgery residency program and his PhD at the University of Toronto, followed by postdoctoral fellowships in brain tumor genomics and in functional genomics at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis. Since his recruitment to the Hospital for Sick Children in 2004, he has had a stellar career. He is currently a Full Professor of Surgery and holds a Garron Family Chair in Childhood Cancer Research at Sick Kids. His research program is world class and focuses on the characterization of pediatric brain tumors in medulloblastomas in particular. He has been recognized by a number of awards including inclusion on “Canada’s Top 40 Under 40” list in 2008. He has published over 450 papers— with 80 of those papers in journals with an impact factor of 20 or higher, including Cell, Nature, Nature Medicine, Nature Genetics, Nature Neuroscience and Lancet Oncology. He joins Drs. Michael Fehlings and Andres Lozano as our Division’s Winn Prize winners, with Toronto Faculty now having won 3 of the 12 Winn Prizes awarded to date. Please join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition of his work.
University of Toronto President’s Impact Award
Michael Cusimano received the President’s Impact Award for his contributions to traumatic brain injury research, his innovation in developing neurosurgical procedures and his dedication to public education and advocacy. Michael is a graduate of the Toronto Neurosurgery Residency Program. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1990, and in this same year received his Masters Degree in Health Professions Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Michael completed a formal skull base surgery fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, 1991-1992. Since his recruitment to St. Michael’s Hospital, Michael has become a globally recognized leader in neurosurgical education. Congratulations, Michael, on this important recognition of your accomplishments. Additional details on the award are available in the following article from University of Toronto: https://www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-neurosurgeon-among-2018-president-s-impact-award-winners http://www.research.utoronto.ca/pia/2018_recipients/

Interim Medical Director of the Centre for Neurovascular Intervention
Leo Da Costa was named Interim Medical Director of the Centre for Neurovascular Intervention at Sunnybrook Hospital, effective January 1st, 2019. In addition to his appointment as Assistant Professor within our Division, Dr. da Costa is also Affiliate Scientist with the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Hurvitz Brian Sciences Research Program at Sunnybrook. Congratulations, Leo, on taking on this important leadership role.
In Memoriam—Emeritus Professor Dr. Irving Bernard Schacter

It was with great sadness that we share the passing of Emeritus Professor Bernie Schacter on November 30, 2018. Dr. Schacter had a long and successful career as a neurosurgeon. He graduated from the University of Toronto’s Class of 1949 and completed his neurosurgical residency at Downstate Medical College in New York. He subsequently returned to Toronto become the first neurosurgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital, and joined our Division under Dr. Thomas P. Morley’s leadership in the early 1960s. Throughout his career with our Division, Dr. Schacter was an active participant at teaching and neurosurgery rounds. He was always very dedicated to his patients well before the concept of patient centred care came into use. He was a true team player always strongly supportive of our Division. He was also highly devoted to his wife Natalie and family. Interviewed for our 90th anniversary celebration in 2013, Dr. Schacter gave young neurosurgeons the advice that “there is life beyond neurosurgery. I always have stressed the fact that there are your responsibilities to your family and that there are other interests that should be pursued through one’s lifetime.” In his retirement, he and Natalie were regular participants at our Division’s visiting professorships and other major events. A memorial service was held at Temple Sinai Congregation in Toronto to celebrate his life. Memorial donations may be made to The Dr. I. Bernard Schacter Neurosurgical Fund at Toronto Western Hospital Foundation www.tgwhf.ca/tribute 416-603-5300. Please join me in extending our deepest condolences to the Schacter family.

Dr. Bernie Schacter (right) and wife Natalie at the 2018 Keith Visiting Professorship dinner, Toronto, June 15, 2018.
HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Mojgan Hodaie received a grant valued at $110,000 over two years from Fujitsu Co-Creation Research Labs for the work entitled “Optimizing radiation delivery in Gamma Knife radiosurgery.”

Gelareh Zadeh and Co-PI’s Dr. Ken Aldape and Suganth Suppiah (PGY4; supervisor: Dr. Zadeh) received a three-year grant valued at $824,250 USD from the U.S. Department of Defense Neurofibromatosis Research Program for the project entitled “Genomic and Epigenomic Characterization of NF1-Related Spectrum of Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors”.

Gelareh Zadeh received a two-year Chordoma Research grant $150,000 grant from Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute (CCSRI) for the project entitled “Analysis of the epigenomic landscape of chordoma”.

Gelareh Zadeh was elected Editor in Chief of the NOA and appointed as associate editor of NeuroOncology. NeuroOncology is the official journal of the Society of Neurooncology -with an impact factor of 9.2 NeuroOncology Advances (NOA) is a cascade open access companion journal with the goal to expand the scope of NeuroOncology.

Gelareh Zadeh was promoted to the rank of Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Research Institute (PMRI) at University Health Network.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Mojgan Hodaie was a Speaker and Coordinator of the NEURONproject residency session. Hanoi, Vietnam. January 13, 2019.

Mojgan Hodaie was a Guest Speaker at the Middle Eastern Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery meeting. 1) “Advanced imaging in functional neurosurgery,” 2) “Trigeminal neuralgia: A unique form of facial neuropathic pain.” Cairo, Egypt. February 6-8, 2019.


Andres Lozano was Guest Faculty at the Ottawa Neurosurgery Review Course. “Indications for DBS and FUS”. Ottawa, Ontario. February 3, 2019.

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand 2019

Gelareh Zadeh was an Invited Speaker at a Neuro-oncology workshop at the University of Toronto. Toronto, Ontario. January 29, 2019.


Gelareh Zadeh was Host of the OCI/Princess Margaret Seminar. Toronto, Ontario. January 31, 2019.


Residents:
Chris Ahuja (PGY4; supervisor: Dr. Michael Fehlings) hosted the Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine's Think and Link series on Facebook Live and other social media platforms. February 20, 2019.

IN THE MEDIA

George Ibrahim’s work in a new selective dorsal rhizotomy program was featured in the Canadian Jewish News. The piece can be accessed at: https://www.cjnews.com/news/canada/boy-gets-life-altering-surgery-thanks-to-ontarios-new-program-for-cerebral-palsy-patients

Nir Lipsman’s research on focused ultrasound for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease is featured in the Globe and Mail. The piece can be accessed at: https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-toronto-researchers-look-at-new-approach-for-treating-alzheimers/
Michael Fehlings was featured in a Globe and Mail article on recognizing the signs of degenerative cervical myelopathy. The piece can be accessed at: https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/article-how-to-recognize-the-early-signs-of-degenerative-cervical-myelopathy/

David Aguirre-Padilla (Functional fellow; supervisor: Dr. Andres Lozano) and Dr. Aguirre-Padilla’s Chilean neuromodulation team have been working for four years to obtain national funding for Dystonia Deep Brain Stimulation. A piece (in Spanish) on one of the first funded patients in the country can be accessed at: http://www.t13.cl/videos/nacional/video-lucha-pacientes-distonia

PDFs OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 2019

2019 Harland-Smith Lecture. Dr. Guilherme Carvalhal Ribas, Professor of Surgery, University of Sao Paulo Medical School. April 5, 2019. The Allan Waters Family Auditorium, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael’s Hospital, 209 Victoria St. “Anatomy Guided Microneurosurgery for Cerebral Intrinsic Lesions”. 7:30am-8:30am.


1st Crean Hotson Chair in Skull Base Surgery Lecture. Dr. Miguel A. Arraez, Carlos Haya University Hospital. April 26, 2019. Toronto Western Hospital, Main Auditorium, West Wing 2-401. “Clival tumors: from Microsurgery to Endoscopy ” 7:30am-8:30am.

May 2019


June 2019


September 2019

Imperial College London offers a Masters in Education (MEd) or diploma in Surgical Education. Courses beginning in September 2019. Applications open in September 2018. For more information, please see: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/medicine/surgical-education/

October 2019

RESIDENTS’ CORNER

Brain School Schedule - thebrainschool.net

**Friday, March 1, 2019**
No school

**Friday, March 8, 2019**
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing 3-424
0900-1200

TBD

**Friday, March 15, 2019**
Cancelled: March Break

**Friday, March 22, 2019**
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing 3-424
0900-1200

Spine Block - Residents to prepared cases

**Friday, March 29, 2019**
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing 3-424
0900-1200

TBD

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2019, 7 a.m., TWH WW 4-438

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING
Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 7 a.m., TWH WW 4-438