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FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S OFFICE

Our Division has had many tremendous successes in 2015, continuing to advance our discipline worldwide. I extend best wishes for 2016 to all residents, fellows, faculty, alumni, family and colleagues of Toronto Neurosurgery.

2015 was a year of remarkable accomplishments for our Division. We are pleased to announce that Fred Gentili (Toronto Western Hospital) has been appointed as the Crean Hotson Chair in Skull Base Surgery, for a five-year term. Dr. Gentili also holds the Alan and Susan Hudson Chair in Neuro-Oncology at University Health Network. The Crean Hotson Chair represents the 17th endowed chair in our city-wide Division. Congratulations to Dr. Gentili on this well-deserved achievement.

Dr. Fred Gentili.
The addition of three new endowed chairs awarded to our Faculty in 2015 – the Crean Hotson Chair in Skull Base Surgery (Fred Gentili, Toronto Western Hospital), the Harold and Esther Halpern Chair in Neurosurgical Stroke Research (Michael Tymianski, Toronto Western Hospital) and the Wilkins Family Chair in Neurosurgical Brain Tumour Research (Gelareh Zadeh) brings our division-wide total to 17. We welcomed five new PGY1 residents to our Division with the annual BBQ reception held at the Chairman’s home. Our Faculty continue to make ground-breaking advances in research and are recognized within our discipline and beyond. Of particular note are Chairman of Surgery James Rutka’s appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada and Professor Emeritus Bernie Schacter’s receipt of the Meritorious Member Award from the AANS & CNS section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves. This year marked the 1st Annual Alan and Susan Hudson Lectureship, which was held in April and featured Dr. Alan Hudson as the inaugural lecturer.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI—Where are they now?

A University of Toronto Department of Surgery Alumni Committee has recently been established, with Jim Waddell as chair. Jim Drake and Bill Tucker are the Division of Neurosurgery representatives to the committee. With the support of Division Chair Andres Lozano, it is planned to publish regular sketches updating the careers of past residents and fellows to help reconnect with former trainees. These items will appear in the Division’s regular publication, Neurosurge, which will now be sent electronically to past residents and fellows, as well as current faculty, residents and fellows.
Nalin Gupta MD, PhD, FRCS(C), FAANS, FACS, FAAP

After obtaining his MD from the University of Toronto in 1987, and a surgical internship at Toronto’s Mt. Sinai Hospital, Nalin Gupta began his neurosurgical training, first at the University of Ottawa (1988-89), and then at the University of Toronto, completing his residency in 1997. This was followed by a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at HSC (1997-98) and obtaining his FRCS(C) in 1998. During his residency, Nalin won several teaching awards and the TP Morley Resident Research Award.

In the midst of his clinical training in Toronto, Nalin was a research fellow in the Brain Tumour Research Center at UCSF (1991-96), supported by the MRC, as well as a graduate student in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at UCSF (1992-96). His graduate advisor was Dennis Deen, and he completed his PhD in 1996.

Nalin was briefly a clinical associate in the Section of Neurosurgery at the University of Chicago (1998-2000), and then moved to UCSF (Departments of Neurological Surgery and Pediatrics) in 2000. He has risen progressively to the rank of Professor in Residence in those two departments, and has been Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery since 2000. Throughout this time he has been a Principal Investigator in the Brain Tumour Research Center of the Department of Neurological Surgery.

In 2000 Nalin became the Bruce Dettmer Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery. In 2014 he was made the Endowed Chair and UCSF Benioff Professor in Children’s Health. Nalin has been the recipient of a number of major grants, teaches clinically and in the laboratory, and has an impressive list of clinical and basic science publications, principally, but not exclusively in the field of pediatric neurooncology. He has been an editor of four pediatric neurosurgical textbooks and contributed to forty-four book chapters.

Nalin is a member of, and has held leadership positions in, numerous professional and scientific organizations in his fields of interest.

Nalin and his wife, Heather Fullerton, a child neurologist, have two children, a girl and a boy, aged eleven and ten years. The family enjoys the outdoors whenever possible, skiing at Lake Tahoe in the winter, and hiking there in the summer.

Bill Tucker
HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Michael Fehlings received a five-year Ontario Institute of Regenerative Medicine (OIRM) grant for the work entitled “iPSC-Based and Bioengineered Approaches to Enable Spinal Cord Regeneration: A Team Grant for Clinical Translation”.

Michael Fehlings received a 2015 Cervical Spine Research Society 21st Century Research and Education Grant for the work entitled “Therapeutic Approaches to Protect against Ischemia/reperfusion Injury Following Surgical Decompression for Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy (CSM): A Potential Solution to Attenuate Perioperative Neurological Complications following Decompressive Surgery”.

Fred Gentili was appointed as the Crean Hotson Chair in Skull Base Surgery.

Gelareh Zadeh was awarded a MITACS grant for the work entitled “Investigation of biomarkers of response to treatment with marizomib in GBM patients”.

PUBLICATIONS


VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS


Michael Fehlings was the Keynote Speaker at the AOSpine Davos Courses, 2015 – Mastering Complex Spine Cases. “High Risk Adult Spine Deformity: How do we prevent and manage perioperative spinal deformity?”. He also participated in a research symposium “How to Integrate Research Info Clinical Practice”. Davos, Switzerland. December 14-17, 2015.

Andres Lozano was a Guest Speaker at the Symposium on Scientific and Ethical Issues in DBS for Psychiatric Disorders Study Design – from Beta Testing to Rollout. EA European Academy of Technology and Innovation Assessment GmbH. “Personal experience and methodological issues related to DBS.” Frankfurt, Germany. Dec 12-13, 2015

James Rutka was an Invited Speaker at the SNO Meeting. 1) “Medulloblastoma - subgroup specific targeting, and promise for the future”, 2) “Molecular Therapeutic Targeting of Glioblastoma Multiforme: Advances from the leading edge”. Kyoto, Japan. December 5-8, 2015.

IN THE MEDIA


R.S. McLaughlin Chairman of Surgery Dr. James Rutka highlights Andres Lozano’s work on deep brain stimulation for Alzheimer’s disease as one of the top medical advances of the year in an article in the Toronto Star. The piece can be accessed at: http://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/2015/12/21/building-a-better-brain-and-other-medical-advances.html.
PDFs OF THE MONTH


UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 2016

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

Grand Rounds Visiting Professor Henry Marsh. February 19, 2016. SMH Li Ka Shing Room 136 from 7am-8am. A book signing for Dr. Marsh’s book Do No Harm will be held.

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

JANUARY 2016

Friday, January 8, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Victor Yang: Aneurysm Review: unruptured, familial, multiple, associated diseases
Victor Yang: Case Presentations
Victor Yang / David Cadotte: Exam preparation guide

Friday, January 15, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, West Wing 3-424
0900-1100

In-Training Exam

Friday, January 22, 2016
Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium
0900-1200

Functional Block

**Friday, January 29, 2016**
Peter Gilgan Centre for Research & Learning, 686 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Event Room 3A & 3B

0745  Info Session with Dr. Andres Lozano
0800  Dr. Andres Lozano: Introduction to Functional Neurosurgery
0900  Dr. Todd Mainprize: Intraventricular Anatomy
1000  Dr. Todd Mainprize: Case Presentations

**RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, January 25, 2016, TWH, WW 4-430

**NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING**
Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438 (library)