

## **NEUROSURGE**

### **MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY**

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#### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

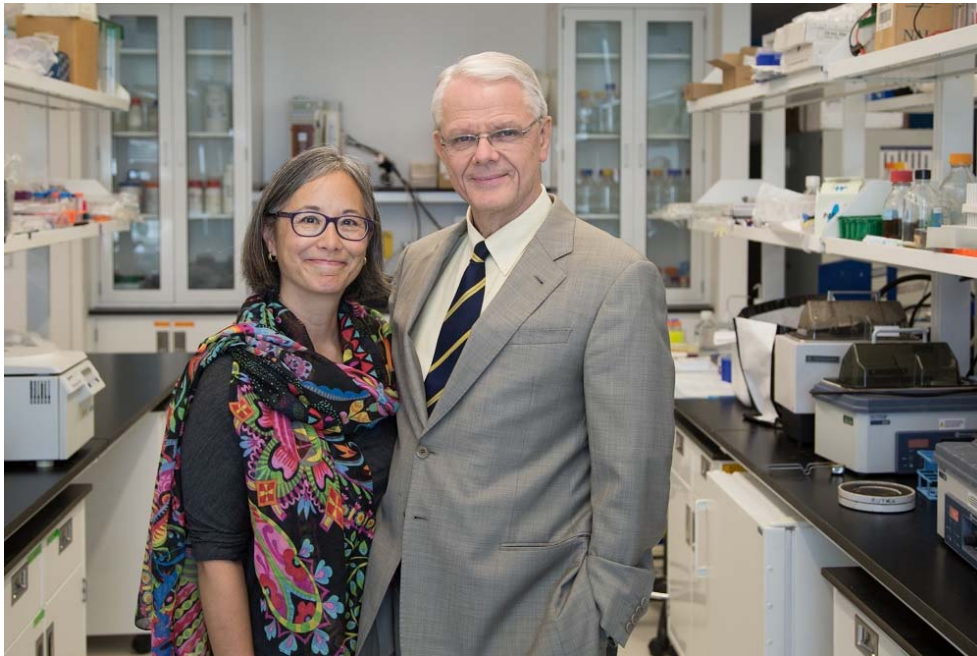
On October 28, the Hospital for Sick Children hosted the 2016 E. Bruce Hendrick Visiting Professor of Paediatric Neurosurgery. Professor Ian Pollack (Chief, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh) was this year's Guest Speaker. He presented a highly engaging lecture entitled "Immunotherapy for Childhood Gliomas—Observations, Challenges, and Future Directions" at the well attended session. Dr. Pollack also presented the University of Toronto Neurosurgical Resident Seminar Curriculum – his lecture was entitled "The Evolving Role of Neurosurgery in Children with Brain Tumors." Thank you to Program Chair Dr. James Drake and Ms. Anne McKenzie for organizing an excellent event.

Michael Taylor was awarded the 2016 Lister Prize from the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. The Prize is awarded to an investigator who has shown 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 Dr. Taylor on this well deserved accomplishment.

Gelareh Zadeh has been appointed Head of Surgical Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario—Toronto Central Region, effective November 1st, 2016. Congratulations to Dr. Zadeh on this important recognition.

### *The James and Mari Rutka Surgeon Scientist Training Fund*

Dr. James Rutka and his wife, Mari Rutka, have announced their commitment to create The James and Mari Rutka Surgeon Scientist Training Fund, which will support the Surgeon Scientist Training Program at the University of Toronto. The Fund will receive a \$3 million endowment from the Rutkas, in collaboration with the SickKids Foundation and the University of Toronto. Dr. Rutka, the R.S. McLaughlin Chairman of the Department of Surgery and a Surgeon-Scientist Program graduate, noted “As a family, we really wanted to invest in this program and we know it will reap huge benefits for decades to come”. The full announcement can be accessed at: <http://medicine.utoronto.ca/news/investing-future-surgeon-scientists>



*Dr. James and Mari Rutka. Toronto, 2016. (Photo: Dan Haves)*

### **HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

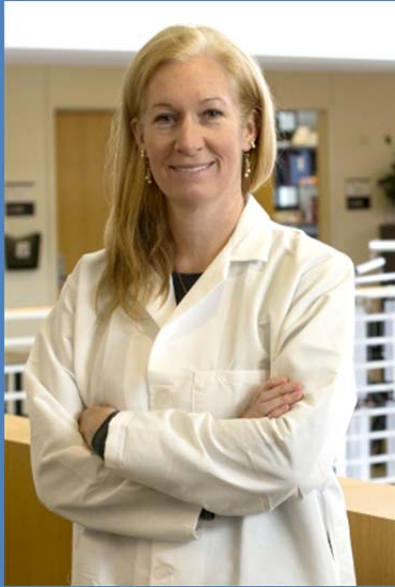
Christopher Ahuja (PGY4; supervisor: Dr. Michael Fehlings) received the 2016 Postgraduate Research Award – Edward Christie Stevens Fellowship in Medicine, valued at \$3,750.

So Kato (Fellow; supervisors Drs. Fehlings and Eric Massicotte) received the 2016 Resident/Fellow Grant from CSRS Research Committee valued at \$15,000.

Nurse Practitioners Alina Mednikov and Darcia Paul (mentor: Dr. Mohammed Shamji) received the Top Podium Award and Second Podium Award, respectively, at the Canadian Neuromodulation Society Meeting.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### *UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI – Where are They Now?*



#### **Dr. Ann M Parr BSc(H), MD, PhD, FRCSC**

After completing an undergraduate degree in Life Sciences at Queen's University in 1995, Ann Parr entered medical school at Queen's, graduating in 1999. During her years at Queen's Ann won several prestigious awards and scholarships.

Ann began her neurosurgery training in Winnipeg, but after three years, moved to Toronto to pursue graduate work in spinal cord injury (SCI) research in Dr Charles Tator's lab. She continued to be recognized by awards and scholarships during her years of graduate school. Ann earned her PhD in 2007, and then completed clinical neurosurgery training at the University of Toronto, and was certified by the RCPSC in 2009. She then was the Cahill Spine Fellow in Complex Spinal Neurosurgery at the University of Miami.

In 2010, Ann became an Assistant Professor (tenure track) at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and was appointed Director of Spinal Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota. Ann's activities at the University of Minnesota are divided equally between research and clinical work, and the latter is approximately 80% spine, predominantly cervical spinal surgery. Ann's lab is focussed on cell transplantation for SCI, an extension of her graduate research work in Toronto. Ann has earned several grants in support of her research, including an NIH K Award. She is also involved in clinical SCI research, and was the local PI for the Stem Cells, Inc. trial. Ann will also be the PI of the SPRING trial, expected to begin later this year.

Ann is active in resident teaching and educational administrative work at the University of Minnesota. She is a member of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience and is on the Steering Committee of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/ PhD).

Ann has also been very active in organized neurosurgery, and is currently Chair of the Northwest Quadrant for the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies, President-Elect of the Minnesota State Neurosurgical Society and Chair-Elect of Women in Neurosurgery.

Ann's home is on Lake Minnetonka, just outside of Minneapolis. There she can cycle, cross-country ski, jet ski, paddle board and fish from her own dock. Ann reconnects with her family at their Parry Sound cottage each summer. Ann and fellow U of T neurosurgical alumna Sarah Woodrow usually take a major trip together each year and this year they plan a wine-tasting visit to Chile and a trip to Easter Island.

- *By Bill Tucker*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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## VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Mohammed F. Shamji was an Invited Faculty at EuroSPINE 2016, discussing differentiation of structural spinal pathology versus neuropathic pain in the patient with pain following spinal surgery. October 5, 2016. Berlin, Germany.

Mohammed F. Shamji was the Scientific Program Director at the Canadian Neuromodulation Society Meeting. Regina, Canada. September 30 – October 2, 2016.

Karen Davis was an Invited Speaker at the Menarini Foundation International Symposium Pain Management - The Science Behind. “Neuroimaging of pain.” October 2016. Budapest, Hungary.

Karen Davis was a Distinguished Speaker at the 31st Annual Bonica Lecture: University of Washington - Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine. “How Does the Brain Represent Individual Differences in Pain? Insights from the new concepts of a dynamic pain connectome and the pain switch.” October 2016. Seattle, Washington, United States.

Karen Davis was a Distinguished Speaker at the Grand Rounds: University of Washington - Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine. “Insights into Predicting Pain Treatment Outcome Based on the Dynamic Pain Connectome & Brain Imaging-Based Pro- and Anti-nociceptive Profiles.” October 2016. Seattle, Washington, United States.

Karen Davis was an Invited Lecturer at the Neuropathic Pain and Neuromodulation Special Interest Groups of the IASP 16th World Congress on Pain. 1) “Brain abnormalities in trigeminal neuralgia”, 2) “The pain switch and the dynamic pain connectome: Mechanisms of perceiving and attending to pain”, 3) “Legal and ethical issues of using imaging to diagnose pain.” September, 2016. Japan.

Karen Davis was a Guest Lecturer at the Connaught Summer Institute in Pain: Integrating research and clinical practice. 1) “Brain and peripheral nerve abnormalities revealed with brain imaging: insights into potential treatment prediction” 2) “Pain Researcher Skills: Survival Skills Panel”, 3) “Pain Researcher Skills: Publishing Panel.” July 2016. Ontario, Canada.

Karen Davis was Invited Speaker at the North American Pain School. 1) “What can brain imaging tell us about individual differences in pain?”, 2) “A primer on brain imaging: a peak behind the curtain of functional & structural MRI.” June 2016. Quebec, Canada.

Karen Davis was a Guest Lecturer at the International Pain Summer School. Individual differences in the dynamic pain connectome underlie intrinsic attention to pain, mindwandering, and prioritizing cognitive demands while in pain. June 2016. Germany.



Karen Davis was a Guest Lecturer at the Pain Mechanisms and Therapeutics Conference. 1) Chair: “Theories on pain – revisited & renewed?” 2) “The dynamic pain connectome and the pain switch (an ouch detector).” June 2016. Taormina, Italy.

Michael Fehlings was a Guest Lecturer at North American Spine Society (NASS). 1) “Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Spinal Cord Injury: The Optimal Timing of Decompression”, 2) “Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy”, 3) Presented by Christopher Witiw – Michael Fehlings was the corresponding author: “Surgery for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy: A Patient Centered Quality of Life and Health Economic Evaluation”. October 25-29, 2016. Boston, Massachusetts.

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the 5th Wuhan Union International Orthopaedic Summit Forum. 1) “Repair and Regeneration of the Injured Spinal Cord From Molecule to Man”, 2) “The role of research in the education and practice of a surgeon”. October 29-30, 2016. Wuhan, China.

Andres Lozano was the Keynote Speaker for the Closing Lecture at the XXII Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN 2016). “Update on HIFU.” Madrid, Spain. October 1, 2016.

Andres Lozano was an Honored Guest Lecturer at Sanford Larson Day 2016 at the Department of Neurosurgery, Medical College of Wisconsin. “The therapeutic potential of functional neurosurgery.” Milwaukee, WI. October 14, 2016.

Andres Lozano was a Guest Lecturer at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. He delivered the I.S. Ravdin Lecture in the Basic and Surgical Sciences, “Surgery to adjust the activity of misfiring brain circuits to improve movement, mood and memory.” Washington, DC. October 17, 2016.

Andres Lozano delivered the 2016 Stuart Rowe Lecture at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital. 1) “The potential of focused ultrasound in neurosurgery”; 2). “Driving under-performing and quashing disruptive activity with Deep Brain Stimulation.” Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. October 19, 2016.

Andres Lozano was the Keynote Speaker at the Inaugural Meeting of the Spanish Society for Neuromodulation. “Modulation of the activity of the human brain with deep brain stimulation.” Sevilla, Spain. October 21, 2016.

Andres Lozano was a Visiting Professor at the Department of Neurosurgery, NYU Langone

Medical Center. “Pushing the frontiers of functional neurosurgery. Steps forward and backwards.” New York, NY. October 27-28, 2016.

Andres Lozano was an Invited Speaker at the Congress of Latin-American Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (SLANFE). 1) “The potential role of magnetic resonance guided focused ultrasound in functional and general neurosurgery;” 2) Current indications for neurosurgery to treat psychiatric disorders; 3) “Management of gait disorders.” Cancun, Mexico. October 31-November 1, 2016.

James Rutka was a Guest Speaker at the 44th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. 1) “Leadership in Neurosurgery: Lessons learned”; 2) “The genetics of epilepsy: a practical guide for the neurosurgeon”; 3) “Epilepsy from low grade gliomas: Current practice and controversies”. Kobe, Japan. October 24-26, 2016.

James Rutka was an Invited Faculty at the Research Update in Neuroscience for Neurosurgeons (RUNN) Course. “Glioblastoma Multiforme: Advances Beyond the Leading Edge” Wood’s Hole, Massachusetts. October 31, 2016.

Gelareh Zadeh, together with Ryojo Akagami, has started a trans-Canadian Neuro-Endoscopy and Skull Base Cadaveric Dissection Course. The first of this series of hands-on courses was held in Vancouver, BC, October 19 and 20th.

Gelareh Zadeh was an Invited Professor at the University of British Columbia Durity Skull Base Course. “Approaches to the Sella and Parasella Lesions Through an Expanded Endoscopic Approach.” Vancouver, BC. October 2016.

Gelareh Zadeh was the Course Organizer for WFNS Neuro-oncology Committee, along with Dr. David Rojas. 1) “Update on Management of Brain Tumors” 2) “Advances in Management of Meningiomas.” October 6-8, 2016.

Gelareh Zadeh was and Invited Speaker at the AANS Tumor Section; Session on Future of Cranial Surgery, New Approaches. “High Frequency Ultrasound.” September 28, 2016.

## **IN THE MEDIA**

Gelareh Zadeh’s work on schwannomas was featured in a EurekaAlert! Article, which also includes a YouTube video produced by UHN about the research. The piece can be accessed at: [https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2016-10/uhn-urt\\_1101016.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2016-10/uhn-urt_1101016.php).

Peter Dirks talks about the effects brain tumours have on everyday functioning while discussing Gord Downie's diagnosis in an article by the Toronto Sun. The piece can be accessed at: <http://www.torontosun.com/2016/10/22/gord-downies-experience-shows-how-devastating-brain-cancers-can-be-researcher-says>.

Michael Taylor discusses the need for funding for pediatric brain tumour research in an article by the Peterborough Examiner. The piece can be accessed at: <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2016/10/13/desperate-for-research>.

## **PDFs OF THE MONTH**

Agnihotri S, Jalali S, Wilson MR, Danesh A, Li M, Klironomos G, Krieger JR, Mansouri A, Khan O, Mamatjan Y, Landon-Brace N, Tung T, Dowar M, Li T, Bruce JP, Burrell KE, Tonge PD, Alamsahebpoor A, Krischek B, Agarwalla PK, Bi WL, Dunn IF, Beroukhim R, Fehlings MG, Brill V, Pagnotta SM, Iavarone A, Pugh TJ, Aldape KD, Zadeh G. The genomic landscape of schwannoma. *Nat Genet.* 2016 Nov;48(11):1339-1348.

Wang S, Drake J, Kulkarni AV. Management and outcome of spontaneous subaponeurotic fluid collections in infants: the Hospital for Sick Children experience and review of the literature. *J Neurosurg Pediatr.* 2016 Oct;18(4):442-447.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **November 2016**

2016 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery. BMO Education & Conference Centre, Room BC (the Krembil Discovery Tower, Toronto Western Hospital). Keynote speaker Philip A. Starr, Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, Dolores Cakebread Endowed Chair Co-Director, Functional Neurosurgery Program Surgical Director, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Care Center (PADRECC) at San Francisco Veteran's Affairs Medical Center University of California, San Francisco. "Chronic ambulatory brain recording in Parkinson's disease using a totally implantable device" and "Interventional MRI for placement of DBS electrodes: technique and experience at UCSF". Friday, November 11, 2016. 8am-7pm.

Charles H. Tator and Barbara Turnbull Symposium. Keynote speaker: Dr. Claes Hultling, MD, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. UHN BMO Education and Conference Centre at the Krembil Discovery Tower, 60 Leonard Avenue. Friday November 18, 2016. 12:15pm-5:45pm.

## January 2016

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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. 8:00am - 5:00pm. Visit <https://ers.snapuptickets.com/ers/online-registration-conference.cfm?y=ZWlkPTE4MjQmbGFuPWVuZw> for more information and to register.

## RESIDENTS' CORNER

The Centre de santé et services sociaux de l'Outaouais (Gatineau) is seeking a full time neurosurgeon. Applications must be received by November 15, 2016. For more information, please see the attached PDF.

Residents are invited to sign up for "Emergency Neurological Life Support," a course run by Dr. Alberto Goffi for ICU trainees. If you are interested, please let Abhaya Kulkarni, Sandi Amaral, and Dr. Goffi ([alberto.goffi@gmail.com](mailto:alberto.goffi@gmail.com)) know. The course takes place on two Tuesday afternoons from 2-5pm on Nov 29 and Dec 20. Visit <http://www.neurocriticalcare.org/enls> for more information.

## Brain School Schedule and Events - November 2016

### Friday, November 4, 2016

Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium  
0900-1200

Dr. Arthur Bookman: Rheumatological conditions a surgeon needs to know: Rheumatoid arthritis - Ankylosing spondylitis

Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case Presentations

Resident: Case Presentations

**Friday, November 11, 2016**

**2016 E. Harry Botterell Lectureship in Neurosurgery**

Toronto Western Hospital, Krembil Discovery Tower, BMO Education and Conference Centre,  
Room BC



*Guest Lecturer:*

Professor Philip A. Starr  
Professor, UCSF Department of Neurological Surgery,  
and UCSF Graduate Program in Neuroscience  
Dolores Cakebread Endowed Chair  
University of California, San Francisco

- 0830-0930     Professor Philip Starr  
*Chronic ambulatory brain recording in Parkinson's disease using a totally implantable device*
- 0930-1045     Scientific Program
- 1045-1205     Clinical Research Presentations by University of Toronto Neurosurgery Residents for the 2016 William J. Horsey Prize Competition
- 1205-1300     Residents' Lunch with Professor Philip Starr  
West Wing 4-430
- 1300-1600     Scientific Program
- 1600-1700     Professor Philip Starr  
*Interventional MRI for placement of DBS electrodes: technique and experience at UCSF*

**Friday, November 18, 2016**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull SCI Symposium

12:15-5:45 PM

Toronto Western Hospital, Krembil Discovery Tower, 60 Leonard Avenue, BMO Education and Conference Centre

*See attached program*



Guest Lecturer:

Professor Claes Hultling, Spinalis SCI Unit, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm

*New Front for Injured Backs*

**Friday, November 25 2016**

Toronto Western Hospital, Main Pavilion 15th Floor Solarium

0900-1200

Sukhvinder Kalsi-Ryan, BScPT MSc PhD

Spinal Cord Function: ASIA Certification

Dr. Eric Massicotte: Case Presentations

Resident: Case Presentations

**RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, November 21, 2016, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-430

**NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING**

Tuesday, November 22, 2016, 7 a.m., TWH, WW 4-438 (library)