

NEUROSURGE

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

In This Issue:

From the Chairman's Office
Honors, Grants and Awards
Publications
Visiting Professorships
In the Media
PDF of the Month
Upcoming Meetings
Residents' Corner

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

2019 was another stellar year of achievements for our Division. We welcomed three outstanding new residents—Armaan Malhotra, Karl Narvacan, and Husain Shakil—and thirty clinical fellows across our four hospital. Our Faculty were highly successful in grant capture, receiving over \$18.9M in new research funding (including 9 CIHR grants and 1 NIH grants). Our residents and fellows continue to excel, being awarded the McKenzie Prize, the Academy Award, the CNS Charles Kuntz Award, and fellowships from NSERC and NREF. Our faculty continue to be recognized with prestigious honours—highlights of which include the AANS Cushing Medal (James Rutka), SNS Winn Prize (Michael Taylor), Ryman Prize (Michael Fehlings), Spanish Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery's Medal of Honour (Abhaya Kulkarni), Canada's Top 40 Under 40 (George Ibrahim), Canadian Pain Society Distinguished Career Award (Karen Davis), University of Ottawa Lifetime Achievement Award (Andres Lozano) and University of Toronto President's Impact Award (Michael Cusimano). James Drake was appointed as Surgeon-in-Chief (Hospital for Sick Children), Peter Dirks was appointed as Division Head of Neurosurgery (Hospital for Sick Children) and Gelareh Zadeh was elected incoming President of the Society of Neuro-Oncology for 2020. We saw the retirement of Richard Perrin and welcomed Christopher Witiw as our newest Faculty at St. Michael's Hospital.

In November of this year, Hudson Visiting Professor Michael Apuzzo, the past Editor of "Neurosurgery", stated publicly that we are world's best neurosurgery program. I would like to thank all our residents, fellows, Faculty and staff for their dedication and efforts in making the Toronto program world-leading. Best wishes to our entire Division family for health and happiness and another year of exceptional achievements in 2020.

SURGICAL MILESTONE



Mojgan Hodaie performed her 1000th trigeminal neuralgia procedure in December 2019. A large clinical referral base and research methodology she has developed has allowed Toronto Western Hospital to become the key site for surgical treatment and investigation on trigeminal neuralgia and pain. This integration of clinical and research efforts has led to expansion of clinical treatments, algorithms and prediction models that help us understand how pain impacts the brain and consequently better treat patients.

This is a remarkable achievement in a relatively short time. Please join me in congratulating Moji on her leadership and in wishing her continued success pushing the frontiers in this area!

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS



Ann Mansur (PGY2) was selected to be Associate Review Editor for the Editorial Review Board of Frontiers- Neuro-Oncology and Neurosurgical Oncology.

PUBLICATIONS

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VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the AO Foundation Meetings. 1) Chair: “AO Institute for Clinical Investigation and Documentation (AOCID),” 2) “Executive Board Member: AO Technical Commission.” December 4-9, 2019. Davos, Switzerland.

Michael Fehlings was a Guest Speaker at the Karolinska Institute. 1) “Repair and Regeneration of the Injured Spinal Cord: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?” 2) External Examiner: “PhD Candidate Ramil Hakim (supervisors: Lou Brundin & Mikael Svensson)” December 11, 2019. Stockholm, Sweden.

Michael Fehlings was an Invited Speaker at the International Spinal Cord Repair Meeting (ISCORE-19). “Repair and Regeneration of the Injured Spinal Cord: From Molecule to Man.” December 2, 2019. Barcelona, Spain.

Andres Lozano was a Guest Keynote Speaker at the IX ABCUR Latin American Summit of Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery. 1) ““Potencialidad del tratamiento en neurocirugía con ultrasonido guiado por resonancia”; 2) “Avances futuros en neurocirugía funcional”; 3) “Estimulación cerebral profunda en la enfermedad de Alzheimer” .. Mendoza, Argentina. Dec 5-8, 2019

James Rutka was an Invited Speaker at the World Academy of Neurological Surgery. “Interstitial laser ablation of epileptogenic lesions in children.” December 3-4, 2019. Mumbai, India.

James Rutka was a Guest Speaker at the Asian Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons. 1) “Recent advances in epilepsy surgery: SEEG, laser ablation, and responsive neurostimulation,” 2) “PN Tandon oration, Navigating neurosurgical oncology into an optimum future,” 3) “Corpus callosotomy, technical nuances, video lecture.” December 5-8, 2019. Mumbai, India.

Gelareh Zadeh was an Invited Speaker at the Brain Best Practice Forum at Toronto Rehab Hospital, University Centre. “Malignant brain tumors: A primer”. Toronto, Ontario. December 10, 2019.

Gelareh Zadeh was a Keynote speaker at the Canadian Society of Iranian Engineers and Architects- ‘MOHANDES’ meeting. “Advancements on brain cancer and surgery”. Toronto, Ontario. December 4, 2019.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Gelareh Zadeh at the meeting of the Canadian Society of Iranian Engineers and Architects- ‘MOHANDES’ held at the Toronto Sheraton Hotel. December 4, 2019.

IN THE MEDIA



Nir Lipsman was featured by The Globe and Mail for his work treating renowned HIV/AIDS scientist Frank Plummer in a trial of deep brain stimulation for alcohol use disorder.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-its-given-me-my-life-back-how-deep-brain-stimulation-treats/>



Affiliated neuroscientist Tom Schweizer was interviewed by UofT News about his longitudinal study of concussion-related injuries.

<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/study-u-t-st-michael-s-hospital-researchers-reveals-concussion-related-injuries-still-present>

PDFs OF THE MONTH

De Snoo ML, Friesen EL, Zhang YT, Earnshaw R, Dorval G, Kapadia M, O'Hara DM, Agapova V, Chau H, Pellerito O, Tang MY, Wang X, Schmitt-Ulms G, Durcan TM, Fon EA, Kalia LV, Kalia SK. Bcl-2-associated athanogene 5 (BAG5) regulates Parkin-dependent mitophagy and cell death. *Cell Death Dis.* 2019 Dec 2;10(12):907.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 2020

American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) 88th Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. Apr 25-29, 2020. <https://www.aans.org/Annual-Scientific-Meeting/2020>

May 2020

Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) 2020 Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. May 30-Jun 2, 2020. https://www.societyns.org/meeting_info.html

June 2020

Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF) 55th Annual Congress. Banff, Alberta. Jun 7-10, 2020. <http://congress.cnsfederation.org/>

RESIDENTS' CORNER

The Department of Neurosurgery at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio has a vacancy for a BE/BC spine-focused neurosurgeon. Contact Gabriel Smith, Clinical Director, at gabriel.smith@uhhospitals.org for more information and to apply.

Brain School Schedule**Friday, January 3, 2020**

No school

Friday, January 10, 2020

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

0900-1200

Pediatric Block

Topic: Anatomy/Development

Friday, January 17, 2020

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

0900-1200

Topic: Hydrocephalus I

Friday, January 24, 2020

Toronto Western Hospital, BMO Education & Conference Centre, 60 Leonard Ave

0900-1200

Topic: Anatomy/Case Presentations

Friday, January 31, 2020

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527

0930-1130

Resident Wellness Workshop

“Team Work and Leadership for Psychological Safety”

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 20, 2020, 7-8 a.m., TWH WW4-438 (library)

NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7-8 a.m., TWH WW4-438 (library)