

## **NEUROSURGE**

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

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

##### **COVID-19**

We send out this month's Neurosurge in the midst of unprecedented challenging circumstances. It is no longer business as usual. Our neurosurgical practices are restricted to emergencies, we have learned how to see patients and work remotely, and we may need to be redeployed to cover patient needs—all in an environment of perhaps limiting resources. The response of our faculty city-wide and of our residents and fellows has been tremendous as we prepare for the increasing challenges to come. The residents and fellows have organized their schedules to maximize the benefits to patients and reduce the exposure to the risks of COVID. Each faculty has volunteered and been given privileges at each of our main teaching hospitals should neurosurgeons be out of commission at any one site and the need to help become important. It has been heartwarming and inspirational to see the response and the solidarity as we prepare for what is to come. It is likely that things will worsen before they get better—but get better they will. I would like to remind you of the old adage "Never waste a good crisis". With some of us working at home, it may be a good opportunity to take on a project or reach a goal that would not otherwise be possible. We will learn a tremendous amount from navigating our current circumstances, and it is likely that life will never be the same. I think there is an opportunity to learn to grow and be stronger as a consequence. I would like to thank each and every member of our Division for their efforts as we face the growing COVID-19 pandemic. Our unity and determination will allow us to come through this unprecedented time. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our Division, and I wish each of you and your families continued safety and good health.

*- Andres Lozano, Dan Family Chairman of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto*

## **In Memoriam: Robin Paul Humphreys 1937-2020**

We are very saddened to announce the passing of Robin Humphreys on March 18, 2020. Robin was Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto and Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children from 1996 until his retirement in 2003. He was a titan of pediatric neurosurgery, and held the positions of President of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (1992-93) and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (1993-94) during the prime of his career. Following his retirement, he was a board member of the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation and he carried on his work for his beloved SickKids for an additional 5 years. Robin was a skilled surgeon, an astute clinician, a great teacher, and a beloved mentor and friend to many. He was a superb public speaker and a disciplined administrator. He was a model of professionalism in our specialty. He warmly welcomed many visitors and trainees to SickKids and he and his wife Judith often so generously extended that welcome to their home in Toronto. Many of us will remember the grace and skill he had to introduce speakers and to pay tributes to others, always seeing people in the best possible light. He imparted to many trainees an infectious enthusiasm for neurosurgery and inspired everyone to be a little better in all aspects of being a surgeon. Many of us close to him in neurosurgery, particularly his many residents and fellows, will remember what a dedicated teacher he was, deeply knowledgeable and offering up organized approaches to the many challenging problems in our discipline. Robin loved to laugh, and he and Judith made you feel special when you were in their company. Robin lost his beloved Judith in January 2020, so they were not apart for long, as it was meant to be. Robin and Judith lived the compassion and dignity to which we all can aspire. Robin adored his family and he will be deeply missed by his children Cameron and Jane, their spouses, and their five grandchildren, as well as many friends. Robin will be missed but his legacy is carried out by many in their daily work across the globe, and he will be fondly remembered.



*- Peter Dirks, James Drake, James Rutka, Abhaya Kulkarni, Michael Taylor, George Ibrahim, and Doug Cochrane  
Toronto and Vancouver, Canada*

## HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

### Associate Chief, Education for Perioperative Services



Abhaya Kulkarni has been named Associate Chief, Education for Perioperative Services at the Hospital for Sick Children. Since 2010, he has served as Residency Program Director for our University Division. His new role will focus on teaching and education as a strategic priority throughout Perioperative Services. Congratulations, Abhaya, on this recognition of your outstanding leadership in education.



Allan Martin (Spine Clinical Fellow, Toronto Western Hospital) received the Charles Kuntz Award AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves.



Jetan Badhiwala (PGY4; supervisor: Dr. Michael Fehlings) received the Journalistic and Neurosurgical Excellence (J.A.N.E.) Award at the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves.

## PUBLICATIONS

Almeida JP, Radovanovic I. Commentary: Transpalpebral Approach "Eyelid Incision" for Surgical Treatment of Intracerebral Aneurysms: Lessons Learned during a 10-year Experience. Oper Neurosurg (Hagerstown). 2020 Mar 1;18(3):E66-E67.

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Zalai DM, Girard TA, Cusimano MD, Shapiro CM. Circadian rhythm in the assessment of postconcussion insomnia: a cross-sectional observational study. *CMAJ Open*. 2020 Mar 10;8(1):E142-E147.

## **VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS**

### *Trainees:*

Zsolt Zador (Cranial Base Clinical Fellow, St. Michael's Hospital) was an Invited Speaker at the Society for Critical Care Medicine. "Late-Breaking Studies Affecting Patient Outcomes." February 2020. Orlando, Florida.

## **IN THE MEDIA**

Sunit Das and Anders Erickson were interviewed by EurekAlert! about their work using a medication used to treat lung cancer in the treatment of metastatic brain cancers. The piece can be accessed at: [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-03/smh-lct032420.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-03/smh-lct032420.php)

## **PDFs OF THE MONTH**

Mendes Pereira V, Cancelliere NM, Nicholson P, Radovanovic I, Drake KE, Sungur JM, Krings T, Turk A. First-in-human, robotic-assisted neuroendovascular intervention. *J Neurointerv Surg*. 2020 Apr;12(4):338-340.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April 2020

CANCELLED: 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/2020-annual-meeting>

Update as of March 31, 2020: *“The SNS plans to proceed with the 2020 Annual Meeting as scheduled for May 30 - June 2. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and want to assure all members, attendees, faculty and staff that your health and safety are of the utmost importance as we reassess meeting and course plans. We will continue to communicate updates to you as necessary.”*

### June 2020

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

## RESIDENTS' CORNER

### Brain School Schedule

April 2020

### Friday, April 3, 2020

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527  
0900-1200

TOPIC: Tumors

- 9-10 Cynthia Hawkins: Neuropathology of Pediatric brain tumors
- 10-11 Uri Tabori: Pediatric low grade gliomas
- 11-12 Derek Tsang : Radiation Therapy



**Friday, April 10, 2020**

Cancelled: Holiday Good Friday

**Friday, April 17, 2020**

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527  
0900-1200

TOPIC: Tumors

9-10 Michael Taylor: Neurocutaneous syndromes  
10-11 Michael Taylor: Post fossa tumors

**Friday, April 24, 2020**

Sickkids, Roy Hill Wing, Room 1527  
0900-1200

TBD

**RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Monday, April 20, 2020, 7-8 a.m., details TBA

**NEUROSURGERY CABINET MEETING**

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 6:30 p.m., details TBA

