

# Krembil Neuroscience News

## November/December, 2008



I would like to thank everyone in the Krembil Neuroscience Centre for putting their best efforts forward during Accreditation Week. Going through the accreditation process takes a tremendous amount of preparation and team work and I am happy to say that this year we were able to highlight some of the great work being done at our centre. The most important aspect of accreditation however, is learning about how we can improve our processes and the way we care for patients. We look forward to the feedback from the surveyors and sharing their observations with you.

On behalf of the leadership at KNC, I would also like to say congratulations to the staff members who were recognized earlier this month with service awards.

We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of people here at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre.

This month, the Toronto Western Hospital hosted an information session for staff to see pictures and a model of the Krembil Discovery Centre. This is a very exciting project that is still evolving and every effort is being made to ensure we meet the needs of our researchers and the community. We will continue to keep you up-to-date with the progress of KDC.

Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS

### Check out KNC in the news!



- Dr. Angela Mails in [Global Television's](#) pain series
- Dr. Mojgan Hodaie in [Global Television's](#) pain series
- Drs. Mike Tymianski and Chris Wallace in the [Toronto Star](#)
- Dr. Michael Fehlings in the [Medical Post](#) on cervical myelopathy

### Epilepsy Monitoring Unit – One Year Anniversary

The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) has officially been up and running for just over one year and the improvement to patient access has been dramatic. Since opening in 2007, the five-bed inpatient unit has increased access by 50 percent and reduced wait times for patients with epilepsy. The EMU is part of the Epilepsy Program at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre, which is run by a dedicated, inter-professional team.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Neuroscience Symposium

This month, the Krembil Neuroscience Centre held its annual symposium for health-care professionals who specialize in caring for patients with brain and spinal cord disorders. The organizing committee, Claudia Zanchetta (co-chair), Angela Sarro (co-chair), Rosalie Magtoto, Caroline Allaire, and Beverly Banton with the contributions of Dr. Taufik Valiante and Dr. David Tang-Wai, put together the two-day event with a dynamic line-up of guest speakers. The theme for this year's symposium, "Past, Present and Future," was highlighted in a number of presentations. Over the course of the event 175 people attended the symposium. Guests were welcomed with opening comments from Dr. Michael Fehlings, Director of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre and Dr. Vera Bril, Head of Neurology. We were honored to have the history of Neurology presented by Dr. Henry Barnett, a renowned physician in the field neurology. The speakers represented a range of disciplines, which reflects the inter-disciplinary team needed to treat patients with neurological conditions. Clinicians looked at how far we have come with treating patients with brain and spinal cord dysfunctions and the exciting new treatments and research that is resulting in better care for patients. A highlight of the symposium was the personal story of the Lehti family's experience during their stay in the Krembil Neuroscience Centre at Toronto Western Hospital.



Above: Lehti Family  
Below: Drs. Barnett and Silver



## **Awards**

Dr. Andres Lozano received the Jonas Salk Award from the March of Dimes. This award is given annually to a physician or researcher who makes a difference for those who live with disabilities. Dr. Lozano was honoured for the work he has done to further Parkinson's research.

Dr. Charles Tator will be inducted into the 2009 Canadian Hall of Fame for bringing distinction to Canada through his outstanding contributions to medical science. Dr. Tator has had a resounding impact on spinal cord injury research, clinical treatment and prevention, and founded Thinkfirst Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury foundation. With this distinction, Dr. Tator will be a two-time Hall of Famer having been inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame in 2003 for his outstanding contributions in the field of spinal cord injury prevention.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals is honouring Robert and Linda Krembil for their leadership and dedication to a broad range of charities in healthcare, with the 2008 Outstanding Philanthropist Award. The Krembil Neuroscience Centre was made possible through the family's generous support of treatments and research for neurological conditions. Most recently, their commitment to the Neurosciences has allowed TWH to embark on a new world-class research facility, which will be named the Krembil Discovery Centre.

Tennys Hanson, President and CEO of Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation, is also being recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the 2008 Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award. Tennys' success as a fundraiser has transformed the foundation at TG and TW and has had a tremendous impact at UHN.

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## **Pain Awareness Day**

Dr. Angela Mailis, Director of the Comprehensive Pain Program at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre held a symposium to raise awareness about neuropathic pain. Dr. Mailis and her dedicated team put together a comprehensive agenda that included presentations about neuropathic pain by leading experts in the field, patient testimonials and representatives from a variety of support groups. This event encouraged the different groups to meet and discuss concerns and ideas. "Often patients with neuropathic pain have difficulties in getting diagnosed properly and in accessing treatment to help manage their pain," says Dr. Mailis. "Pain is so costly, both on a



*Helen Stephenson and Dr. Mailis*

personal and societal level that we need find ways to address this problem." The event was attended by 120 guests including Ms. Helen Stephenson, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Officer of the Ontario Public Drug Programs.

## **Brain Tumour Research**

Dr. Sidney Croul and his team of researchers at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre have identified some potential mechanisms that mediate the spread of brain tumors in the central nervous system. Studying medulloblastoma, the most common brain tumour in children, researchers have begun to reproduce the process by which this cancer spreads beyond the original (primary) site to secondary sites in the central nervous system. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Charles Tator – Barbara Turnbull Lectureship**



*Dr. James Rutka, Dr. Michael Fehlings, Dr. Charles Tator, and Dr. Jerry Silver - 2008 Tator-Turnbull Keynote Speaker*

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Tator, health-care professionals and members of the public gathered to listen to some of Toronto's leading physicians, surgeons and researchers discuss the exciting developments occurring in the field of spinal cord injury (SCI) research. The event also included other Canadian and U.S. scientists who are also at the forefront of world-leading research on SCI. We have seen a great deal of development in the last decade for spinal cord injuries and now in an era of translation. This is a very exciting time for researchers, patients and Canadians.

For more information or to submit story ideas please email Krembil Neuroscience Centre Public Affairs at:

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