

Krembil Neuroscience News

January, 2009



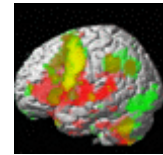
It is amazing to look back and see all that we accomplished in 2008 at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre. Given the current economic climate, I believe it is important to set appropriate expectations for delivering health care in 2009. While the exact impact of how the economy will affect health-care in the province is unknown, we should be optimistic that the spirit and innovation that drives our team will remain strong. In fact, it is challenging times like this that cause us to innovate the way we practice and provide better care for our patients. There is no doubt that we provide first-class care and that we have demonstrated we are a vital provincial resource in the area of neurological care. The New Year promises to be an exciting one with

the construction of the Krembil Discovery Centre. On behalf of Mary Ann Neary, Clinical Director at KNC, and the senior leadership, we look forward to another year of global leading research and advances to patient care.

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

Events

- January 2009 - Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- January 30, 2009 – Patient Education Monthly Talk
Topic: Alzheimer's disease featuring presentations by the Memory Clinic
- February 2009 -CHIN Radiothon



8 A and B Fell Leading the Way to Better Patient Care

Nurses and Allied Health professionals truly put the words “inter-professional care” into action during the latest Rapid Improvement Event (RIE) on 5A and B Fell. Working towards the goal of improving workflow and communication among the interdisciplinary team, representatives from a range of disciplines worked together to find new solutions to ensuring necessary patient information is communicated and that supplies and equipment can be found to provide timely care to patients. The overall goal of these activities is to improve patient flow, satisfaction and safely reduce their length of stay at the hospital. The group worked together by first identifying the areas they wanted to target by going on a observational walk, also known as a “waste walk”. It was from there that they decided to focus on bullet rounds, standardizing location or supplies and communication tools. The enthusiasm and support that staff showed for this RIE was

overwhelming. By bringing nursing and allied health together, team members gained better insight into the respective professions. Solutions have been implemented and the team will be reporting on the success of this RIE later in January.



RIE Team: Carla Thomas (RN), Vernet Garner (RN), Sylvia Lindsay (RN), Maxine Morgan (RN), Sylvie Robinson (PT), Andrea Dyrkacz (OT), Sheila Katz (SW), Judy Chau (RD), Carolyn Chalmers (SLP)

CHIN Radiothon

3rd Annual CHIN Radiothon to raise money for Portuguese Patient Education. We need your help in two ways:

- UHN staff for Live radio interviews the week of February 2nd – 7th, 2009 at Toronto Western Hospital.
- Portuguese speaking patients for pre-recorded interviews January 6 and 7 from 1pm to 3pm at Toronto Western Hospital.

Last year, we raised \$21,000 that has been put to good use across TGH and TWH!

If you would like to participate or have a patient that may be interested please contact Nadia Daniell-Colarossi at nadia.daniell-colarossi@uhn.on.ca

2008 MSA Physician of the Year Award

Dr. Vera Brill, Head of the Division of Neurology is among the first group of physicians awarded with the inaugural Medical Staff Association Physician of the Year Award. Dr. Brill was nominated by three of her colleagues for her “uncommon abilities to sincerely promote collegiality, respect, enthusiasm and professionalism.”

According to Dr. Janis Miyasaki, President of the Selection Committee, there are many awards for academic merit, scientific productivity, teaching skills, but no one highlights the quality of being a good academic physician “citizen”. “We want to recognize the physician who is a great role model for all of us – and someone who brightens everyone’s academic practice,” said Dr. Miyasaki.

Along with the award, a donation is made to a charity chosen by the recipient. Dr. Brill’s donation went to the Canadian Diabetes Association, this reflects one of her major research interests over the years - diabetic neuropathy.



*Dr. Vera Brill
2008 MSA Physician of the Year*

Clinical Managers Succession Development Program’s Poster Bazaar

Staff from the Krembil Neuroscience Centre and Toronto Western Hospital participated in the Poster Event for Clinical Managers Succession Development. MSDP is a 15-month program designed to educate UHN staff about leadership roles through mentorship. The poster display gave participants the opportunity to highlight how the program and their mentors have influenced them. Arlene Vasconcelos, TWH OR Patient Care Coordinator joined the MSDP to prepare for a leadership role in the future; her mentor was Judy Filman, a nurse manager at PMH. Arlene’s poster presentation focus on two specific areas that have greatly influenced her work: conflict resolution and communications. “Improving these skills not only transformed me but the whole team that I work with,” said Arlene. “I found the solutions that I applied in the OR could also be used by me and my colleagues in other settings.” Arlene noted that the program was very comprehensive and involved all aspects of management including human resources, finance and planning.



Kevin White, Arlene Vasconcelos, Nerrisa Maxwell



Nerrisa Maxwell, Milijana Buzanin, Kevin White

The program has proven to be very successful for others in the KNC program as well. In total four members of the KNC staff are graduates of the development program. Kevin White, Nerissa Maxwell, and Milijana Buzanin, also completed the program and are working in manager positions. “We are extremely lucky to have a strong talent pool to draw from,” said Mary Ann Neary, Clinical Director of KNC. “This program helps ensure we recognize the wealth of skills and expertise we have at our centre.”

Farewells....

Claudia Zanchetta, ACNP Neurosurgical Critical Care will be leaving the Krembil Neuroscience Centre to pursue a new and exciting opportunity at Cancer Care Ontario. “Claudia is a valuable member of our clinical staff at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre,” said Mary Ann Neary, Clinical Director of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre. “She has been a strong leader, promoter of education and wonderful colleague to many – we will miss her dearly.” Please join us in wishing Claudia well with her new endeavors!

Highlights from KNC in the News

[The Globe and Mail](#) - Dr. Michael Fehlings discusses treatment for spinal cord injuries.

[The Globe and Mail](#) – Dr. Mojgan Hodaie highlights the Gamma Knife

Daily Planet – Dr. Angela Mailis gives the real deal on truth serum

[Telegraph.co.uk](#) – Deep Brain Stimulation and Memory

[Durham News](#) – Drs. Hodaie and Tator discuss brain injuries

[Global Television](#) – Dr. Tator speaks on helmet safety

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

nadia.daniell-colarossi@uhn.on.ca