

Krembil Neuroscience News

October, 2008



Welcome to the new edition of the Krembil Neuroscience newsletter. This monthly publication is for and about KNC staff and patients. This newsletter reflects an important step towards increasing the visibility of the neuroscience program at UHN and with the public.

In order to raise awareness about our program we have added a new member to our team – Nadia Daniell-Colarossi is the public affairs advisor for KNC and will be working with us to help profile the global leading research and treatment that takes place within our centre everyday. One of Nadia's first projects will be to implement the "Krembil" brand across the organization. Solidifying the identity of the Krembil Neuroscience

Centre is vital to our ability to grow our institution and to ensure we are able to provide the best patient care for neurological conditions.

The next phase in our growth will be the Krembil Discovery Centre. This will be a nine story addition to Toronto Western Hospital that will increase our capacity to engage in innovative research and improve our ability to provide clinical services to the community. Groundbreaking for the Krembil Discovery Centre is expected in early 2010 and targeted to open in 2012.

In the meantime, the leadership at KNC is planning an external review of the program in the New Year. This review will highlight the strengths of our centre and show us where we need to be in order to capture the spot as North America's top academic neuroscience institute. We will keep you up-to-date as progress around the external review takes shape.

Lastly, in our efforts to continuously improve patient care and actively support the physicians we train at KNC, we will be shifting the timing of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre rounds to an afternoon format. Staff will be polled for their preferred time so that we are able to accommodate as many schedules as possible.

I look forward to regularly updating you through this newsletter and encourage you to contact Nadia if you have information or story ideas that you would like featured.

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

Fellowship Grant

Dr. Vera Brill, Head of Neurology, is pleased to announce that the Department of Neurology has received a grant from Talecris Biotherapeutics for a two-year fellowship in neuromuscular disorders. This fellowship will provide opportunities for advanced clinical and research training in areas related to neuromuscular diseases.

In this issue

- Welcome from the KNC Medical Director
- 2 year fellowship grant awarded to Department of Neurosurgery
- New stem cell research
- Cervical Spine Research Society Award
- Spinoza Chair
- U of T appoints new Director of Neuroscience Program
- Rapid Improvement Event

Calendar

Upcoming activities & events

November 3rd
Neuropathic Pain Awareness Day
One Face, Many Causes
MaRs Centre from 1:00pm – 4:00pm www.actionontario.ca

November 13th -14th
The 5th Annual Krembil Neuroscience Symposium – *Past, Present and Future*
Topics will include nanotechnology in neurosurgery, advanced practice PT in spine clinic and molecular biology of gliomas. For information and online registration please visit: www.krembil.com

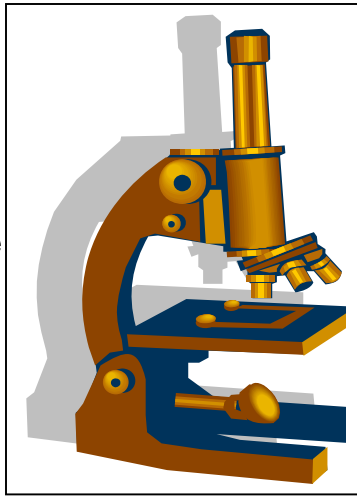
November 14th
The 7th Annual Charles H. Tator - Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury
89 Chestnut University of Toronto

November 17th-21st
Accreditation Week
Surveyors will be visiting neurosurgery and ambulatory clinic areas in the neurology department. Information and accreditation toolkits are available on the [UHN intranet](#)

Stem Cell Research

Drs. Charles Tator and Andrea Mothe have successfully transplanted adult spinal cord stem cells into mice and rats to produce the protective cover, known as myelin. This study showed that transplanted cells from the adult rat spinal cord can replace the lost myelinating cells and produce around the nerve fibers (axons). The full study was published in the September issue of Experimental Neurology.

For more [information](http://www.krembil.com) visit www.krembil.com.



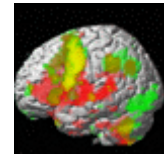
Did you know?

- 6 million Canadians suffer from neurological disease
- The Krembil Neuroscience Centre treats 30,000 patients each year
- Brain and spinal cord injuries leave many of the survivors with permanent disabilities affecting speech, vision, movement, cognitive function and behavior
- Bicycle helmets are 85% effective in preventing head or brain injury

Awards

Dr. Gregory Hawryluk, working under the supervision of Dr. Fehlings, was recently selected for a Resident/Fellow grant from the Cervical Spine Research Society for his work entitled, "Defining neural precursor cell-host interactions to optimize repair of traumatic spinal cord injury". The grant will be presented to Dr. Hawryluk at the 2008 CSRS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Karel terBrugge has been awarded the prestigious Spinoza Chair from the University of Amsterdam for 2008 for his enormous expertise in patient care, research and teaching in the field of interventional radiology. In conjunction with the Spinoza Chair, Dr. terBrugge gave several lectures at the University of Amsterdam in October. In addition to this, Dr. terBrugge has been giving lectures across the globe. By early November he will have given 20 lectures across 4 continents.



Appointments

Dr. Michael Fehlings, Program Medical Director of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre was recently appointed as the inaugural Director of the University of Toronto's Neuroscience Program. As a leader in the clinical, research and academic settings of neuroscience, Dr. Fehlings is strengthening the neuroscience program at both UHN and U of T.

Rapid Improvement Event on 5A and 5B

Staff on 5A and 5B has been working hard on a rapid improvement event that optimizes the internal discharge planning process and improves the discharge experience for patients. "The goal of this project is to increase the number of patients who are ready to leave the hospital before 11:00am on their day of discharge. This results in improved patient flow, and patient satisfaction. Patients get better information about their discharge and more advanced warning," said Nerissa Maxwell, Nurse Manager on 5B Fell. This rapid improvement event has resulted in a truly team-based approach to ensure patients receive the best quality care and information with regards to their hospital stay. Together 5A and 5B have increase the percentage of patients discharged before 11:00am by 100 percent. According to Rosemary Ritchie, Nurse Manager on 5A Fell, "team leaders have shown a lot of enthusiasm for this project and we have had many champions of this project. That enthusiasm is over-flowing and having a positive impact on everyone."

Brain Fitness

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Medium sudoku from
www.SudokuPuzz.com

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