

NEWS AND NOTES

ISSUE 5 2007

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of the Department of Neurosurgery,



Dr. Karin Muraszko

This has been a long year for all of us in Neurosurgery. With Dr. Hoff's unfortunate death in April of 2007, we were all reminded of our own mortality and, more importantly, of the special qualities of the Department of Neurosurgery. We were brought together in grief but strengthened by the memories of a department rich in history, strong in tradition, and bolstered by colleagues who are among the best in the world.

Dr. Hoff lives in each of us and in the traditions of the department.

The department continues to grow at a steady pace, both in terms of personnel as well as in the types and number of cases that are being performed. We are now heavily into our interview season and each of us has found that the number of outstanding candidates is steadily growing. It is reassuring to know that the best and the brightest from the nation's top medical schools still choose neurosurgery as a profession and Michigan as a place they wish to train. It is because of its history and unbridled enthusiasm about its future that these bright young men and women choose Michigan.

We have many things to celebrate as each of our faculty and residents have contributed significantly to the national and international stature of this department. The institution continues to grow with heavy construction now taking place right outside our offices for the new Mott Children's Hospital, as well as the recent opening of the Michigan Cardiovascular Center. There is further development on the East Ann Arbor campus such that the Outpatient Surgery Center and outpatient facilities continue to thrive and expand, and there are plans for the development of a Musculoskeletal Center.

The focus of the institution is now on destination programs and we are heavily involved in the development of several of these programs. As we approach a new year, we wish each and every one of you health and happiness, and hope that you will be able to come back and visit us at some point in the new year. It is a chance for us to reflect back on our history and hopefully a chance for you to renew your sense of family with this department.

Sincerely,



Karin Muraszko, MD

Dr. Daniel Orringer and Dr. Nicole Jeffreys with a patient and her father in Guatemala during Project Shunt 2007.



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HOUSE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Good Luck!

The Department of Neurosurgery gathered at the Gandy Dancer on June 16th to wish Dr. Barun Brahma and Dr. Sonia Eden the best of luck as they embark on their careers after residency at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Brahma and his wife Pavna have moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he is a pediatric neurosurgeon with Pediatric Neurosurgery Associates at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Scottish Rite Hospital.

Dr. Sonia Eden is completing a minimally invasive spine surgery fellowship with Dr. Kevin Foley at the University at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Following her fellowship she will be going into private practice in Miami, Florida with Dr. Linda Sternau.



Dr. Muraszko and residents at the 2007 Chief's Dinner.

Dr. Barun Brahma and Dr. Sonia Eden



Welcome New House Officers!

Khoi Than, M.D. joined the department this summer after completing medical school at Johns Hopkins University from 2003-2007. It is also where he completed his undergraduate degree in public health. Neurosurgery was Khoi's favorite rotation during medical school and is one of the reasons why he chose to pursue it as a career. He has a fascination with neurologic disease and enjoys doing research.

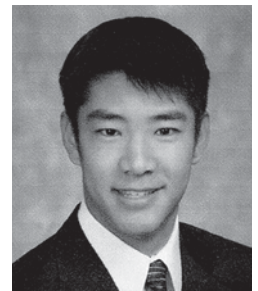


Khoi Than, M.D.

The University of Michigan appealed to Khoi because he says it is "a perfect program because there is high operative experience, there are plentiful research opportunities and it is well regarded." He also credits the U-M department with having happy, friendly attending surgeons as well as residents.

Khoi's family is from Portland, Oregon. When he is not working, on-call or catching up on sleep, Khoi enjoys spending time with friends, watching sports, assembling his fantasy sports lineups and listening to music. He jokingly says he is also trying to make time to "find a wife." Any takers are encouraged to contact Khoi directly.

Anthony Wang, M.D. came to U-M after completing medical school at Duke University from 2003-2007. Prior to that, he received his undergraduate degree in neurosciences from Vanderbilt University. Anthony's interests are primarily in developing visual prostheses while incorporating foreign medical missions into his career. He says he chose to train in neurosurgery because it "just seemed like the perfect vehicle through which to put my particular talents toward affecting our body of knowledge and public health."



Anthony Wang, M.D.

Anthony says Michigan was an easy choice for residency. He said, "I enjoy learning under the tutelage of those whom I respect. Michigan offered the opportunity to train under so many renowned surgeons who carry sterling reputations as teachers, physicians, scientists and friends. These are the people I am excited to emulate."

Anthony grew up along the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Tennessee, cheering on the Volunteers at Neyland Stadium every chance he got. Because he was too small for even a placekicker, he played soccer and the violin in college instead. He has recently taken up traveling, forcing his wife into trying various extreme sports along the way.

FACULTY UPDATE



Dr. B. Gregory Thompson

Dr. B. Gregory Thompson has been selected as the recipient of this year's University of Michigan Health System Outstanding Clinician Award. This award recognizes exemplary performance as a practicing clinician or program leader of innovation in clinical care. Each award carries a \$5,000 discretionary academic support prize. Dr. Thompson continues in the

tradition of Drs. Chandler and McGillicuddy, who are previous winners of this award. The award will be given at a Medical School dinner in December.



Dr. William F. Chandler

The UMHS was once again recognized as having some of the Best Doctors in America. According to a UMHS press release, the national list is compiled every two years by Best Doctors, Inc., and based on an in-depth survey of more than 40,000 physicians in 43 specialties and more than 400 subspecialties of medicine. Seven of the Department of Neurosurgery's

physicians were listed among America's best neurosurgeons including: Dr. William F. Chandler, Dr. Hugh J.L. Garton, Dr. Cormac O. Maher, Dr. John McGillicuddy, Dr. Karin Muraszko, Dr. Oren Sagher, and Dr. B. Gregory Thompson.



Dr. Frank La Marca

Drs. Frank La Marca and Paul Park were awarded funding from the Health System's Clinical Innovation Fund for their Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Program proposal. The CIF finances innovative and profitable clinical projects that will clinically differentiate UMHHC from competitors and prove financially rewarding for the institution.



Dr. Paul Park

The Regents approved Dr. Bill Chandler to be the Richard C. Schneider Professor of Neurosurgery effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Julian 'Buz' Hoff previously held the title before his passing earlier this year. The ceremony to recognize this special honor was held December 7th in the MCHC Auditorium, which included remarks about Dr. Schneider by Dr. John

McGillicuddy and Dr. Saeed Farhat. Dr. Karin Muraszko spoke about the history of the professorship and its legacy in the department. Dr. Margaret Gyetko, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, presented Dr. Chandler with the recognition medallion.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Venkatakrishna Rajajee, MD will start January 21, 2008 as a neurointensivist. He is currently an attending physician in general medical/surgical critical care and neurology at the Sundaram Medical Foundation in Chennai, India.

Aditya S. Pandey, MD will join the department July 1, 2008. He is currently doing a fellowship in cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

STAFF UPDATE

Welcome New Staff!



Michelle Bard

Michelle Bard

Development & Alumni Relations

Michelle joined the Department of Neurosurgery in May. She originally got her feet wet in development at U-M when she worked for the vice president for development and then as an annual giving officer at the Division of Kinesiology. In her new role, she will be responsible for planning events, fundraising, alumni relations and communications, including writing the newsletter and maintaining the Web site. Although she grew up in Michigan cheering on the Wolverines, she temporarily became a Hoosier when she left to go school at Indiana University where she completed her BA in Journalism. During the winter season you can catch Michelle cheering on the Milan High School girls varsity basketball team that her fiancé Jeff coaches. She also enjoys playing with her puppy, catching up on reading for her book club, and planning her summer 2008 wedding.

Marti Cotner

Assistant to Dr. Parag Patil & Dr. Teresa Jacobs

Marti joined us in August. She previously worked at EEG/EMG Laboratories where she was responsible for scheduling EMGs, EEGs and OR Monitoring as well as entering both EEG and EMG billing into C-Cubed. Her educational background includes classes at Washtenaw Community College and the Ann Arbor Institute for Massage Therapy. Marti enjoys spending time with her children, being outdoors walking or playing football, and recently she has become interested in auto racing.

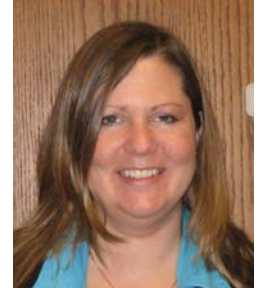


Marti Cotner

Dori Danbury

Physician Assistant for Spine Program

Dori started in October. She previously worked as a neurological PA in a private practice associated with SJMH in Ann Arbor since 2003 where she evaluated new patients and post-op patients in an outpatient setting. In addition, she acted as first assist for six surgeons. Prior to that, she worked in family practice as a PA since her graduation in 1997. She began her education with a BS in Medical Technology/Secondary Education from MTU then later completed her Physician Assistant MS degree from the University of Detroit Mercy. Dori stays busy with three daughters who are all active in various sports. Her oldest daughter just began her college career at U-M's College of Engineering. When she's not watching her daughters play school sports, she is involved with coaching travel volleyball and basketball. Her husband coaches hockey at Brother Rice High School, so needless to say, when she's not working you can usually find Dori in a gym or at an ice rink.

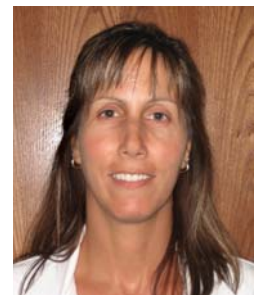


Dori Danbury

Danielle Jourden

Nurse Practitioner for Adult Neurosurgery

Danielle joined the department in August. She comes to us with seven years of experience as a registered nurse working on an Orthopedic/Neurosurgical unit. She also worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Danielle earned her Associate's Degree in nursing from Washtenaw Community College in 2000. In 2003 she was accepted into the RN to MSN program at the University of Michigan. She graduated with her Masters 2006. She spends much of her free time with her 12-year-old son, but also enjoys reading, traveling and outdoor activities.



Danielle Jourden



Dr. Daniel Orringer

RESIDENT KUDOS

Dr. Daniel Orringer received the 2007 CNS Basic/Translational Research Fellowship with which he plans to apply nanotechnology to enhance the precision of brain tumor surgery. He was also recently awarded a two-year Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Cancer Institute, which provides full salary support during his research time.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Danielle Bozaan

Nurse Practitioner for Pediatric Neurosurgery

Danielle previously worked at Columbus Children's Hospital in Acute Care PNP Neurosurgery, Primary Care PNP and as a Staff Nurse in the General Medicine/Pulmonary Unit. She received her BS in Exercise Science at Miami of Ohio University and her MS in the PNP track at the College of Nursing at Ohio State University. Danielle moved back to Michigan in August to get married and begin her career at U-M. She and her husband live in Kerrytown and love that they can walk everywhere. Now that wedding planning is out of the way, they look forward to Michigan outdoor activities such as boating, hiking camping, fishing and especially skiing. In addition, she loves their Boston Terrier and teaching aerobics. She also happens to be a big Buckeye fan, making the week of the Michigan v. Ohio State game a fun one for her and her coworkers.



Danielle Bozaan

Miriana Popadich

Clinical Care Coordinator for Brachial Plexus Program

Miriana has been with the department since August. She started nursing school at St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo where she received her BSN at Lourds College in Sylvania, Ohio. She is currently enrolled in graduate school at Michigan State University in the Nurse Practitioner Program. Miriana and her husband Stoyan have two children — Nick who is 8 years old and Alex who is 1 year old. Their favorite places to travel include beaches and mountains where they can swim and ski.



Miriana Popadich

Anyone who knows Don Tomford will not be surprised to learn he has been named Administrator of the Year for the UMHS. Dean Woolliscroft presented Don with the award on June 22 at the School's annual ice cream social for family and staff.



Dean Woolliscroft and Don

Don acts as the liaison between the Medical School and Hospital for the finance portion of the Department of Neurosurgery. He is actively involved in recruitment of new faculty, but also in recruitment of additional personnel for the department such as clinical trials coordinators, secretaries, clinic staff, and administrative staff. He has been working for the department for some 14 years and in that time he has seen the department grow from a Section in the Department of Surgery to a full-fledged, free standing Department. At a time when many administrators would choose to remain at the status quo, feeling very comfortable in their roles, Don has continued to take on new challenges and excel at them.

This award is recognition of his job performance, not only as a member of the Department of Neurosurgery, but also as a member of the larger UMHS/Hospital community. He provides the financial stewardship for the growing department, but also leadership with respect to institutional goals and objectives. Particularly in assisting the department in working with outside insurance companies such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Don and his cadre of administrative associates have been successful in helping maintain a solid financial portfolio for the department.

Don Tomford will receive his special award at the Dean's faculty recognition dinner in December.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Interview with Dr. Anthony Asher

Dr. Anthony Asher grew up the oldest of six siblings in northern Detroit. Football was his primary sport interest and he played on a state championship team at Brother Rice. He went on to play college ball at Kalamazoo College where he was a religious studies major. He attended medical school at Wayne State University and completed his residency at U-M. He was a member of the first class of NIH-Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Scholars and was a Staff Fellow at the National Cancer Institute under Dr. Steven Rosenberg. For the past 12 years, Dr. Asher has served as Director of Neuro-Oncology Programs at Carolinas Medical Center and Presbyterian Hospitals in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is Partner at Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates and Chief of Neurosurgery at Presbyterian Hospital. In addition, he is Co-founder and Director of the Brain Tumor Fund for the Carolinas as well as adjunct Professor of Neurosurgery and Biology at UNC. Dr. Asher will serve as President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons for 2007-2008. Dr. Asher and his wife Jill have three children: Tony, 13; Kyle, 11; and Dayna, 7.



Dr. Anthony Asher

N&N: Why did you choose Neurosurgery?

TA: I chose to go into Neurosurgery relatively late – which is somewhat surprising as I have always been very interested in neurosciences. Basically, I ended up being more strongly influenced by my early research experiences than my clinical ones. I had the opportunity to work as a Hughes Scholar during medical school in Steve Rosenberg's lab at the NIH. After my experience in immunotherapy research, I decided to become a surgical oncologist and matched in general surgery at U-M. Later, after my neurosurgery rotations, I realized I was much better suited to a life in neurosurgery. I still value my experiences in general surgery, and I think my exposure to basic science has made me a better clinical researcher.

...this organ system defines the essence of what it is to be human: language, memory, movement, emotion – it has a certain philosophical appeal.

Looking back it's still hard for me to believe that I did not make Neurosurgery my initial career choice for a number of reasons. First and foremost, activity in this organ system defines the essence of what it is to be human: complex communication, reasoning, knowledge production, emotion – neurosurgery therefore has a certain philosophical appeal. The combination of technical challenges and research opportunities is very appealing. Then you have the pathologic range: vascular, tumor, spine, peripheral nerve. The anatomy, particularly intracranial anatomy, is spectacular. Whenever I have the opportunity to operate in a more complex space such as the parasellar region, third ventricle or CP angle, I generally take time after the dissection is complete to marvel at the structures. That's when I really miss not having residents to teach, although I try to point out major anatomic features to the PAs and nurses. Neurosurgery is a special calling. I am constantly aware of how privileged we are to do what we do on a daily basis.

N&N: Why did you choose U-M?

Being a native Michigander, I've always had a great affinity for the University. When I learned about the top-flight surgical programs at the University (and those opinions were amplified by others on the residency trail), it was a natural choice for me. I have always felt at home in Ann Arbor. In many ways, I still consider it home.

N&N: What stands out to you about your time at U-M as a resident?

TA: When I reflect on my time at U-M, I remember a remarkably respectful atmosphere and an incredible learning environment. We had the privilege to work with some of the best neurosurgical educators in the country: Drs. Hoff, Chandler, Muraszko, McGillicuddy, Papadopoulos, Ross and Sagher were able to achieve a good balance between supervision and graded responsibility. More importantly, they encouraged teamwork and inspired clinical excellence by their example. Dr. Hoff in particular created a sense of family that made our

program unique. I learned a lot about myself and life in general during my training. I had many valuable experiences with my surgical mentors and fellow residents and the lessons I learned have carried over into my post-residency life. Above all, I will remember my chief year as one of my great life experiences. I was privileged to work with an all-star residency crew from top to bottom with co-chief Jim Markert and fellow residents Nate Selden, Steve Doran, Mike Polinsky, Jody Stern, Carol Greer and Jerry Tuite. My wife Jill was in her last year of Dental School and we had a great little house near the stadium. It was also the year our son Tony was born.

N&N: What advice would you give new U-M Neurosurgery residents?

TA: Take notes after complex cases. Strive to develop a comprehensive understanding of neuroanatomy. If you want to be a clinical scientist, choose your clinical interests first; let your research interests compliment your clinical ones. Lastly, as Dr. Hoff might have said, be appropriately aggressive.

N&N: What do you hope to accomplish as President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 2008?

TA: I'd like to advance cooperative activities designed to harness the collective experience of our fellow surgeons for the good of our patients and society. There exists tremendous intellectual capital within our specialty. Neurosurgeons in all practice settings need to be made aware of our individual and collective potential to advance patient care.

I plan to advance more scientific approaches to the development of educational programs, and bring learning theorists to the table as partners in this

endeavor. I plan on building strong relationships with our sister organization, the AANS. Finally, I would like to encourage the continued re-design of our annual meetings. These gatherings have the potential to serve as "laboratories" to advance clinical science. They can also serve as forums for idea exchange and consensus development.

N&N: What have you learned through your involvement with CNS and other professional societies?

TA: First of all, the CNS is a remarkable organization that really makes a difference in our field. The creative energy in our organization is just incredible, and the CNS remains the best mechanism for young neurosurgeons in particular to try and make an impact on a national scale. Second, a tremendous amount goes on behind the scenes that most neurosurgeons are unaware of. Many dedicated, talented and visionary individuals are volunteering their personal time to help advance our specialty and, by extension, improve society.

Third, everyone in neurosurgery needs to consider participation in "medical society" as Osler described organized medicine. I believe widespread participation in organized medicine is critical to the advancement of our profession.



Dr. Anthony Asher and Dr. Julian 'Buz' Hoff

U-M NEUROSURGERY COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT CNS

Faculty, residents and alumni gathered at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina on September 17th for an alumni cocktail reception to coincide with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons annual meeting. Guests were treated to hors d'œuvres and cocktails while they caught up with old friends and networked with new ones. The cocktail

reception was scheduled to end at 8:30 p.m., but ran well into the ten o'clock hour as friends and colleagues found they had much to catch up on.



Our alumni continue to prove their leadership in the field as U-M Neurosurgery was well represented on the annual meeting committee. Dr. Anthony Asher (RES '95) was chairman of the meeting and sat on various planning committees, which will give him good practice for next year's meeting when he will be President of the CNS. His wife Jill Asher (DDS

'95) was the Auxiliary Program Chair. Other alumni include Dr. Nathan Selden (RES '99), who served as Scientific Program Vice-Chairman and Dr. Nicholas Boulis (RES '01) who was the Original Science Chairman. They both sat on the Strategic

Planning/Oversight and Integrated Medical Learning committees. In addition, Dr. Gerald Tuite (RES '95) was an abstract representative on the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery and sat on the Spine IML Advisory Committee. Dr. Sanjay Gupta (RES '00) gave a presentation at an auxiliary luncheon and signed copies of his book *Chasing Life*.

Our current faculty was also represented on the annual meeting committee. Dr. Oren Sagher was an abstract representative on the Section on Pain and sat on the Neurosurgical Forum Subcommittee. Dr. Lynda Jun-San Yang (RES '04) was a representative on the Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves and sat on the Special Courses committee. Dr. Hugh Garton was an abstract representative on the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery and participated in the Digital Masters Video Symposium.



PROGRAM PROFILE

ThinkFirst

Injury is the leading cause of death in children 15 years of age and younger in this country. Approximately 10,000 children per year die as a result of injuries, 7,000 of which are the result of brain injury. Each year 143,000 children sustain traumatic brain injuries that are not lethal but often result in severe disabilities. In addition, 1,200 children sustain spinal cord injuries that result in neurological deficits. Fortunately, most of these brain and spinal cord injuries are preventable.

The neurosurgical community has struggled for decades to develop treatments to improve the outcome after brain and spinal cord injuries. Despite this effort, there is presently only limited ability to cure or adequately treat the damaged central nervous system. It is clear the majority of these injuries can be prevented and thus defines a mandate for prevention education.

To spread the word of injury prevention to our vulnerable youth, the University of Michigan's Department of Neurosurgery has sponsored a ThinkFirst chapter since 1994. ThinkFirst is the National Injury Prevention Foundation's award-winning, evidence-based program aimed at helping people learn to reduce their risk for injury. The U-M chapter, under the guidance of Chapter Director Laura Zang, MS, RN, has regularly presented the program to Ann Arbor Public Schools' six middle schools and five high schools, as well as many elementary schools and private schools. Presentations have also been enthusiastically received in Milan, Ypsilanti, Brighton, Saline, Pinckney, Birch Run, and Dundee. There are three distinct programs - one specific to early elementary children, one for late elementary/middle school children, and one for teens.

The U-M Chapter has focused primarily on in-school presentations to early elementary and teenaged populations. The elementary program generally includes a 30-minute assembly presentation using a cartoon video followed by focused discussion and demonstrations about car passenger safety and wheeled activity safety. When possible, the U-M Chapter also provide helmets for the children in the targeted age group.

The teen program is presented in classroom or auditorium settings and includes a video of young survivors telling how their lives were changed by brain or spinal cord injury; a discussion of the causes, effects and prevention of these injuries; and a talk by a young survivor who describes life after injury. All presentations are provided at no cost to the schools. Since 1994, the ThinkFirst message has reached more than 23,000 elementary, middle and high school students in the Ann Arbor area.



Anne Middleton, Administrative Assistant, helps distribute bike helmets for ThinkFirst.

The U-M's Department of Neurosurgery ThinkFirst group has also participated in Brain Safety Day at the Detroit Science Center, providing injury prevention information as well as donating and fitting 75 bicycle helmets; the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum's Brains Rule Day; Mott Hospital activities including Coffee Talk, Mott Field Day, and Bicycle Camp; and numerous SafeKids events and community Health Fairs generally providing information about car passenger safety and safe wheeling.

The long-term goals for the U-M Department of Neurosurgery ThinkFirst Chapter are to expand the current program to include surrounding communities and develop a specific dive injury prevention program.

Don Tomford and happy bike helmet recipient.



RESEARCH UPDATE

International Cerebral Hemorrhage Conference Honors Dr. Hoff

The 2nd International Conference on Cerebral Hemorrhage was held in Shanghai, China, on November 10-11th. The first such meeting was held in Ann Arbor in 2005. Before his untimely death, Professor Hoff was due to co-chair this meeting with Professor Liang-Fu Zhou, Chair of Neurosurgery at Hua-Shan Hospital, Fudan University in Shanghai.

Professor Zhou invited Diane Hoff, as well as son Paul and daughter Allison, to attend the meeting and they were accompanied by Paul's wife and children. The meeting started with several speeches honoring Dr. Hoff's contributions to the fields of intracerebral hemorrhage and neurosurgery. Paul was then presented with a salver honoring Dr. Hoff's achievements.

The meeting was co-organized by Fudan University and the Crosby Neurosurgical Laboratories at the University of Michigan, with Dr. Guohua Xi working tirelessly to ensure its success. The meeting was attended by over 160 scientists and clinicians and covered the complete range of work on intracerebral hemorrhage, from current clinical trials, to translational research and basic research on pathophysiological mechanisms. The meeting was attended by Drs. Ya Hua, Richard Keep, Greg Thompson and Guohua Xi from the Department of Neurosurgery. Professor Zhou and Fudan University were marvelous hosts.

To honor Dr. Hoff's contributions, six Hoff Fellowships were awarded to allow young scientists to attend the meeting. In addition, a Hoff Post-Doctoral Fellowship was established to further foster collaboration between the Departments of Neurosurgery at Fudan University and the U-M. That collaboration, established by Dr. Hoff, has been very fruitful. Indeed, three of four current Associate Chairs in the Department of Neurosurgery at Hua-Shan Hospital once worked at the Crosby Neurosurgical Laboratories.

Dr Hoff's impact on the field of intracerebral hemorrhage was clear throughout the meeting and his presence sorely missed. As mentioned by many speakers, Dr. Hoff had a major impact upon clinicians and scientists alike.



Dr. Richard Keep, Director of the Crosby Labs

Recently awarded grants to the Department of Neurosurgery:

- Ya Hua, Sponsor: American Heart Association, Title: Estrogen-Induced protection in intracerebral hemorrhage, 2 yr award total: \$131,448
- Dr. Guohua Xi, Sponsor: American Heart Association, Title: Thrombin in brain recovery after intracerebral hemorrhage, 5 yr award total: \$500,000
- CTSA awarded to Dr. Oren Sagher for \$75,000, Guohua Xi for \$100,000 and Dr. Parag Patil with Dr. Taylor in Psychology for \$150,000
- Dr. Dan Orringer received two grants:
 - 1) Congress of Neurological Surgeons \$10,000 Title: CNS Basic-Translational Resident Research Fellowship
 - 2) NIH National Science Research Association: \$51,278 Title: Nanoparticle-Enabled Brain Tumor Surgery

If you wish to contribute towards the Hoff fellowships, you may contact Michelle Bard, Director of Development, Department of Neurosurgery, at 734.936.8224.

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY

2007 Motor City Golf Classic

Under blue skies and sunshine, golfers and volunteers descended upon Barton Hills Golf Course in Ann Arbor on August 13th for the 2nd annual Motor City Golf Classic to benefit the U-M Department of Neurosurgery. The tournament was again an enormous success; we had 116 golfers, 20 corporate sponsorships and 45 non-golfers who attended the dinner alone to show their support for the department. This year we raised over \$50,000, up from last year's total of \$40,000.

Our tireless and dedicated committee members — Harish Chawla, for whom this tournament to benefit U-M would not be possible, Bob Kunkel, owner of Caddy Shack Golf Shop and Debbie Prasad, member of the Barton Hills Board – were key in not only making the second year of this tournament happen, but making it successful and fun for all involved.

Proceeds from last year's tournament went to support Project Shunt, ThinkFirst and helping to provide assistance to needy patients and their families. This year, the committee will be awarding grant money to projects proposed by U-M Neurosurgery faculty and staff. Please contact Michelle Bard at bardma@umich.edu or 734.936.8224 if you would like more information about the tournament.



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Wings Medical

Save the Date!

Next year's Motor City Golf Classic will be held on August 18, 2008 at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor



PHILANTHROPY PROFILE

Family Makes a Difference One Bracelet at a Time

Glass beads and string didn't always occupy nearly all of Caleb Cook's free time. In fact, seven years ago, Caleb wasn't doing much of anything in the way of fun. In 2000, at the age of five, Caleb was diagnosed with posterior fossa medulloblastoma, a malignant brain tumor. Medulloblastoma is the most common type of primary brain tumors in children and can metastasize to different places in the brain and spine.

After the medical care he received at the University of Michigan Health System which included surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, Caleb and his parents Dana and Peter, and his sisters, Kendra, 15, and Rachel, 9, began making and selling the colorful glass bracelets to help raise money and awareness for pediatric brain tumors. They also wanted to say thank you to the outstanding physicians at the UMHS who helped Caleb on his road to recovery.

Dana says one of those UMHS physicians is Dr. Karin Muraszko, Chair and Julian T. Hoff Professor of Neurosurgery, who performed Caleb's surgery and whose research to find new therapies for pediatric brain tumors helped give the Cook family hope when they needed it most. Dana said, "We are so grateful to Dr. Muraszko and all her staff. We have noticed over the years how dedicated Dr. Muraszko is to her

brain tumor research and how much she does here. It makes you want to make a difference."

Dana remembers one night in particular that stood out and propelled her to want to give back. She and her family were at the hospital late one night with Caleb when he was still really sick and Dr. Muraszko stopped by to check on her former patient after a long day in the operating room. Dana said, "I asked if she was going home because she looked so tired and it was so late, and she said, 'not yet, I just wanted to check up on Caleb and now I'm heading to the lab.' I just admire her so greatly for her dedication," she says. Dana says the bracelets have been a huge hit. "It's really taken off. We can't make them fast enough!"



Cook family (from back): Dana, Kendra, Peter, Rachel and Caleb

What started as a hobby for the Cook children just giving the bracelets to the hospital nurses and kids in the waiting room, quickly snowballed after they began selling them to raise money for brain tumor research.

Today, Caleb is a bright-eyed and cancer-free sixth grader who spends a lot of his time helping his family make and sell the bracelets at schools in the Paw Paw, Michigan area and at various cancer walks. They sell for \$5 and all proceeds go to the U-M's Department of Neurosurgery Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Fund. Since they began selling them two years ago, they have raised over \$5,000.

"It's such a small amount, but it feels so good knowing we're doing something to help," she says.



Rachel Cook's classmates with the bracelets Rachel and her family make and sell to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research.

Dana Cook has learned a lot on the road to her son's recovery. Here, she shares advice to parents who also have a child diagnosed with cancer.

As parents, you may feel helpless because you have always been able to protect your children and help them through their illnesses. Then, out the blue, you are hit with the words "Your Child Has Cancer". It is the most devastating news you may ever hear. But there is hope and your child can beat this.

As frightening as the first diagnosis is, cancer can be curable and in some cases very manageable. Today, thanks to ongoing research and new treatments, cancer has an overall survival rate of 78%. You can take comfort in knowing how fortunate we are to live in a country where we have state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment, as well as the best surgeons and physicians in the world.

Here are some of the things I have learned over the last seven years since Caleb's diagnosis:

- Strive to keep normalcy in your household, especially if your child has other siblings. They, too, are affected greatly.
- You will have your days when you just cannot get it together. It's okay. Cry in a pillow or with a friend and move on. Try to lean on those around you. You will be truly amazed how many good and kind people there are who want to help. Let them help you.
- Keep peace and love in your home as it is a great comfort and is healing for the whole family unit, especially for the child that is ill.
- Surround yourself by positive friends and family and try to keep negativity out of your life and your child's.
- Do your homework. Educate yourself with resources on the Web, in books and by meeting people willing to share their personal stories about cancer.
- Get treatment at an institution like U-M that has a comprehensive cancer center and a team of physicians that specialize in your child's type of cancer. Do not just settle for what is convenient.
- Keep hope alive. As a family, we found our strength in our faith and never stopped praying and believing Caleb would get better.

Cancer can be what you let it be. It can either break your family unit, or make it a whole lot stronger. This is the one thing you have control of, so let it be a healing force.

For information on how to buy bracelets to support pediatric brain tumor research, or to give directly to the research fund contact Michelle Bard at 734.936.8224 or bardma@umich.edu

THANK YOU!

Thank you once again to all the generous donors to the Julian T. Hoff Professorship. We have made every effort to compile an accurate list, but if we have made an error or omission please contact us at 734-936-8224 or bardma@umich.edu so we can update our records.

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PROJECT SHUNT: TRIP REPORT

By Debbie Song

Project Shunt celebrated its tenth year of providing neurosurgical and medical care to the children of Guatemala. Sponsored by Healing the Children and the Fundación Pediátrica Guatemalteca, this year's team of 26 members included Drs. Karin Muraszko, Hugh Garton, Suresh Ramnath, Nicholas Boulis from Emory University, and three residents from the University of Michigan Department of Neurosurgery. We were also fortunate to have Dr. Steven Buchman, Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at Mott Hospital, join us to assist in the complex wound closures of patients with extensive neural tube defects.

The day after arriving in Guatemala City, work began with one part of the team evaluating patients in clinic and the other group setting up three operating rooms and the recovery area at the hospital. Each year, Project Shunt brings all of the equipment and medicines needed to run its own operating rooms and recovery room – everything from patient monitors, IV fluids, and sterile operating gowns to instrument sets, linens, and portable sterilizers. 50 boxes of supplies were shipped to Guatemala two weeks prior to our arrival; the rest of the equipment was taken down with the group in 25 foot lockers. After an extensive renovation and remodeling process lasting several years, the Fundación Pediátrica Guatemalteca's Nino Jesus Hospital reopened this year in Guatemala City. Gone are the days of operating in tiny, cramped operating rooms under flashlights during intermittent power outages and the occasional cockroach scurrying across the floor in sweltering heat and humidity. We were pleasantly surprised to find a new and improved hospital setting.



Dr. Daniel Orringer and patient

Back at the clinic, the waiting room was flooded by dozens of patients and their families. The scene was punctuated by the rich, bold colors of traditional Guatemalan garments. Scanning the clinic, I was struck with a combination of awe, gratitude, and humility in realizing the extent to which many of the families had sacrificed and risked just to have the chance to meet with the members of our team. This fall has been a particularly precarious and trying time for the people in Guatemala. Just weeks prior to our arrival, the national elections took place and were marred by unprecedented levels of violence and corruption. Three weeks before we arrived, Hurricane Felix had also brought rainstorms and rendered many of the roadways leading to the rural towns and villages unpassable. Despite these circumstances, families traveled for hours and through difficult conditions to make it to our clinic. As a team, we worked efficiently and thoroughly to see over 45 patients in the span of 6 hours. Some of the cases were heartbreaking: a child with a very large unrepaired

myelomeningocele and massive hydrocephalus whose mother carried him around covered in a blanket from head to toe. She pleaded with us that she just wanted to see the child's eyes, which were seemingly fixed in a sun-downed state. Others were children with tethered spinal cords who were losing leg function. Perhaps most gratifying was the return of two patients from Project Shunt 2006 who had undergone operations and were now thriving.



As the complexity of the cases increases each year, the importance of Project Shunt becomes ever more apparent; the technically challenging operations performed on the Guatemalan children would likely not otherwise happen were it not for the mission. This year, we performed 17 surgeries, including 2 myelomeningocele repairs, 2 terminal myelocystocele repairs, 3 lipomyelomeningocele repairs, and 2 complex split cord malformation repairs. Operations often lasted until the early evening, with families waiting patiently in a makeshift waiting area. Many of the families were in tears after being assured that all of the care was free and that the children would be provided with all the medications they would need in the postoperative period.

After the children got out of the operating room, they spent a few hours in the recovery room under the watchful team led by Dr. Gail Annich, a University of Michigan pediatric critical care intensivist, before being transferred up their rooms for the evening. During morning and evening rounds, we also got a chance to interact with the Guatemalan nurses and pediatricians, as well as the Guatemalan neurosurgeon who will be following up with all of the children following the completion of Project Shunt.

Beyond the operations, Project Shunt also distributed countless amounts of toys, clothes, toothbrushes, Spanish educational materials, and food to the patients' families. We also continued a critical component of our mission: teaching families an aggressive catheterization regimen for children with spina bifida who may have bladder dysfunction and in whom urosepsis may be fatal. We were able to donate a year's supply of catheters to patients' families.

I am grateful to all of the doctors, nurses, and supporters who helped make Project Shunt 2007 a success. Project Shunt relies entirely on donations and our fundraising sale so the mission would not be possible without the generosity of donors and the dedicated efforts of our volunteers. Despite the fact that the facilities in Guatemala do not compare to the University of Michigan and the conditions are not always optimal, I am confident and proud of the fact that Project Shunt 2007 has been able to offer truly outstanding medical care from the very best that the University of Michigan has to offer.

I am extremely proud to have been able to be a part of Project Shunt during my residency. I learned how to equip and run an operating room from concept to completion and it has made me a better surgeon. In addition, it has fostered a broader view of



Back row: Dr. Daniel Orringer, Dr. Debbie Song, Dr. Hunter Brumblay.
Front row: Dr. Suresh Ramnath, Dr. Karin Muraszko, Dr. Nick Boulis

health care which will impact the way I provide care in my own community back home, and I also like to think it demonstrates in a very real way that people in the United States care about the world outside our own borders, an impact that should not be downplayed, particularly in this day and age.

2007 Project Shunt Members:

Neurosurgery — Karin Muraszko MD, Hugh Garton MD, Suresh Ramnath MD, Nicholas Boulis, MD, Hunter Brumblay MD, Debbie Song MD, and Daniel Orringer MD.

Plastic Surgery — Steven Buchman MD.

Anesthesiology — Brian Woodcock MD, Judy Negele MD, Robert Christensen MD, Nicole Jeffreys MD, Derek Woodrum MD.

Pediatric Critical Care — Gail Annich MD, Timothy Cornell MD, Patricia Raimer MD,

Recovery Room nursing — Catherine Walls RN, Elvia Parker RN.

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For more information on making a gift to the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Michigan, please contact:

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