

NEUROSURGERY



upcoming events

The Department of Neurosurgery proudly presents:

Resident Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, June 13, 2015

6:00pm Reception

7:00pm Dinner

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

11400 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106



Gardner Lecturer during Graduation Dinner

James J. Evans, MD, FACS

Professor of Neurological Surgery and Otolaryngology

Director of Cranial Base and Pituitary Surgery

Co-Director, Jefferson Center for Minimally Invasive

Cranial Base Surgery and Endoscopic Neurosurgery

After residency training in neurological surgery at the Cleveland Clinic and Queen Square, London, Dr. Evans completed a fellowship in cranial base and cerebrovascular surgery with Dr. Laligam Sekhar. He is currently a professor in the Departments of Neurological Surgery and Otolaryngology at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Evans is the Director of Cranial Base and Pituitary surgery, Co-Director of the Center for Minimally Invasive Cranial Base Surgery, and Director of the cranial base surgery fellowship program at Jefferson. Through the program, Dr. Evans has trained surgeons from throughout the U.S., as well as from several other countries. He has active leadership roles in organized neurosurgery and currently serves on the Executive Board of the North American Skull Base Society. Dr. Evans has authored and edited two books as well as written numerous manuscripts and chapters on cranial base surgery. He has become a national leader in endoscopic endonasal surgery and continues to advance the field with the development of new surgical instruments and techniques. Dr. Evans is the proud husband of Deborah, an attorney and published author, as well as two beautiful daughters, Sophia and Vivienne.

Cleveland Clinic Neurosurgery Alumni Connection

SPRING 2015



From the Desk of Edward Benzel,
Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery

This, the first edition of Cleveland Clinic Neurosurgery Alumni Connection, represents an initiative to keep Cleveland Clinic Neurosurgery Alumni informed. This initiative began with the notion that we should have a Gardner Lectureship that is devoted to prior graduates or alumni of the Cleveland Clinic. To that end, the first of this 'new version' of the Gardner Lecturers was Donald Dohn, MD. He gave a magnificent talk at the Neurosurgery Graduation last June; and, was a huge hit. Drs. Dohn, Guy Sava (the new Neurosurgery Alumni representative), Rich Schlenk (Current Neurosurgery Program Director) and others felt that a newsletter might meet a significant need amongst our alumni – i.e., that of informing of the goings-ons in Neurosurgery at the Clinic. So, here goes – our first Neurosurgery Alumni Newsletter. I hope this fills a gap in knowledge and awareness, and that it meets the needs of our constituents (the Alumni). Please let us know your thoughts.

resident's corner

Neurosurgery Residents of the Year



Iain Kalfas, MD
(CCF Alum 1988)
2014 Faculty
Teacher of the Year



Kevin Walsh, MD
(PGY-5) - 2014
Resident Teacher of
the Year



Mike Kelly, MD
(PGY-7) - 2014
Resident for
Outstanding
Academic
Achievement

Congratulations to...



Elizabeth Emily Abbott, MD (PGY-4) and Cole Austin Bennett who tied the knot on August 2, 2014.



Andrew Healy, MD, (PGY-6) and his wife, Jane, on the birth of their baby girl, Ella Mary Healy on October 28, 2014.



Varun Kshetry, MD, (PGY-7) and his wife, Suchetha, on the birth of their baby girl, Saanvi Kshetry born on March 2, 2015.

Update on the Current Neurosurgical Residents



Nina Moore, MD, PGY-4

The world of healthcare is in a continual state of reform with the new regulations, technologies, and patient expectations. Despite these waves of change, the everyday ebb and flow of the neurosurgical resident work routine has not been altered much. The early morning rounds, the heavy responsibility of the "on-call" pager, the pride of taking ownership of our patient's welfare, and the continual challenge to improve our clinical and surgical abilities remains the same.

We are, however, learning to adapt to changing distributions of surgical cases by finding additional ways to gain experience with approaches not as frequently performed today. Technical labs are used to practice techniques and familiarize the resident with anatomy and surgical approaches. Over the last couple of years, we have been developing and using a laboratory space at Lutheran Hospital to hone in on surgical skills via cadaver dissection. A spine biomechanics laboratory is juxtaposed to the surgical skills laboratory. Here, residents have been actively engaged in biomechanics research in both the spine and concussion domains. With the help of current staff, former Cleveland Clinic trainees, and industry, we have enjoyed many superb spine and cranial laboratory sessions.

Outside the hospital, we have had an opportunity to participate in sporting activities with the University Hospital's Neurosurgery program in what is becoming an annual "Neurosurgery Olympics." Our teams meet for one Saturday in the fall to compete on the field in soccer, football and softball. A good time is had by everyone and for a few days afterward we were moving a lot slower.

The current Cleveland Clinic neurosurgical resident works to follow in the footsteps of those who have trained in the program before, learning from skilled staff surgeons and navigating the world of neurosurgery. This year, several of our residents had the opportunity to attend the Congress of Neurosurgeon's reception for Dr. Benzel as the Honored Guest. The venue was the beautiful Museum of Fine Arts and the theme was that of a 'roast.' Dr. Ben Rosenbaum (PGY-7), one of our Chief Residents, in fact, took part in 'roasting' Dr. Benzel. We all feel privileged to train with some of the luminaries of the neurosurgery world. The path is not an easy one; it is a journey that requires sacrifice and steadfastness. One, however, that provides the ultimate in fulfillment.



A Few of the Current Neurosurgery Residents:

(From Back Left) Adam Khalil (Intern), Alex Witek (PGY-3), Matt Grabowski (Intern), Amr Morsi (Intern), (Front Left) Nina Moore (PGY-4), Lee Hwang (PGY-2), Louis Ross (PGY-3).



Residents Jeffrey Mullin (PGY-5) and Kevin Walsh (PGY-5) attending Dr. Benzel's Congress of Neurological Surgeons Honored Guest Reception

Alumni Updates



From the Desk of Guy Sava, MD, (CCF Alum 1979),
Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association Specialty Director for
Neurological Surgery

From my perspective, the greatest highlight is all about Dr. Donald Dohn, who at the age of 89, gave a terrific "Gardner Lecture" last June at the Cleveland Clinic Neurosurgery Resident Graduation. He continues to keep in touch regularly with so many of his former residents/fellows. Dr. Dohn remains as committed and supportive of his trainees and the Cleveland Clinic as do his trainees - who think he walks on water. Dr. Dohn and wife, Caroline, a former CCF nurse clinician, continue to travel extensively. I did visit Dr. Peter Reedy (CCF Alum 1984) and wife, Margie, at their beautiful ranch in Boise, Idaho. During the visit to Idaho, my wife, Rose and I visited Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Sorensen, (CCF Alum 1966) and spent a very enjoyable dinner/evening with them in Salt Lake City. Bruce is writing a biography of his father and still very active in the Mormon church. Dr. Mike Feely (CCF Alum 1976), who lives in San Diego, is now licensed to practice in California. Dr. Melvin Whitfield (CCF Alum 1981) surprised me twice this summer while he was in Cincinnati. Mel has joined Dr. Rod in Fort Lauderdale and continues to perform huge numbers of complex spine surgeries. Unique to their practice is the use of scribes in their exam rooms, recording every detail of the encounters! A real luxury overshadowing Dragon, etc. Dr. Marc Levin (CCF Alum 1977) is doing very well in Chicago. Dr. Martin Cooper (CCF Alum 1976) is still working in Beverly Hills and thoroughly enjoying family life.

Congratulations must go again to Ed Benzel for his being recognized as the highlight of the CNS meeting in Boston. Ed recently took over as Editor of World Neurosurgery Journal, truly another great accomplishment.



2014 - 2015 Neurosurgery Residents

Neurosurgery Updates

Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons was honored to have Dr. Edward C. Benzel, Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Cleveland Clinic and Professor of Surgery, at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, as the 2014 CNS Honored Guest. The annual meeting took place in Boston, MA, October 18-22, 2014.



Dr. Benzel and his wife, Mary.

Staff Updates

Michael P. Steinmetz, MD (CCF Alum 2005) returned to Cleveland Clinic in December 2014 as Co-Director for the Center of Spine Health, along with Thomas Mroz, MD.



Michael P. Steinmetz, MD



Thomas Mroz, MD

Stay Connected!

We encourage our alumni to stay connected with former colleagues, mentors, associates and friends. You can receive news updates about your training specialty and view events on the digital calendar including CME course information.

CME Online

For CME information on all medical specialties, visit the Center for Continuing Education's website, ccfme.org, a leader in online CME with a worldwide outreach and record-setting CME numbers. On the site you can:

- Claim credit for CME activities
- View your transcript
- Reprint certificates
- Create an account in minutes! New profile: ccfme.org/newprofile
- Login: ccfme.org/cmelogin

You can earn CME credit by reading articles from *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, either online or in print. Visit <http://ccjm.org/> for a current issue of *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* and more information.

Mobile Stroke Unit



In July 2014, the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute's Departments of Neurosurgery and Neurology developed and launched an innovative Stroke Care delivery model, the Mobile

Stroke Treatment Unit (MSTU). MSTU attempts to bring emergency room level stroke-specific care to stroke victims in the field, directly at the site of their injury. In cooperation with participating municipal EMS squads, the MSTU responds to potential stroke victims who have utilized 911 emergency dispatch to initiate patient care. The MSTU is an all-encompassing stroke care ambulance that enables the treatment of the time-sensitive aspects of a stroke patient's care within minutes, reducing delays that are commonly experienced in patient transport and Emergency Room triage. The MSTU is equipped with an on-board CT Scanner, Point of Care Testing Supplies and an active telemedicine portal, which has the ability to bring a board-certified stroke neurologist to the patient's bedside within minutes of their onboarding an ambulance. Essentially, the MSTU effectively brings all the tools that are currently utilized to assess a potential stroke patient in stroke specialty hospitals from the emergency room directly to the patient at the location of their injury. The Cleveland Clinic's implementation of this concept represents one of the first such units in the United States and is one of less than five units known to exist in the world.

Alumni Profile

Please click on <http://my.clevelandclinic.org/alumni/my-alumni-profile.aspx> to update your alumni profile.

Feedback

Feedback for our newsletter is always welcome, as are your suggestions for future content. We would like the Alumni Update column to feature updates about marriages, births, promotions, retirements, vacations, hobbies, etc., that you would like to share. Photos are especially welcomed! Please send your announcements or photos to Christine Moore at moorec2@ccf.org.

Cleveland Clinic is an independent, nonprofit, multispecialty academic medical center consistently ranked among the top hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. Founded in 1921, it is dedicated to providing high-quality specialized care and includes eight community hospitals, 16 family health centers, an education institute and a research institute.