The Balkin Family Lecture

The Balkin Family Lecture on Neurosurgery and Neuro-oncology at the Massachusetts General Hospital was established by a generous gift from Frances B. Balkin and A.W. Balkin. The fund is to be used to support lectures and other presentations by professional staff from both within and outside the Massachusetts General Hospital on matters concerning brain tumors and other related fields of medicine. Their continuing support has helped to bring outstanding researchers and clinicians to the annual lecture.

Upcoming Lectures

SEPTEMBER 29, 2005
THE WILLIAM H. SWEET LECTURE ON FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY & PAIN
Mapping Midbrain Modulation of Motivation
Charles D. Blaha, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
University of Memphis

NEUROSCIENCE SERIES
This year the series focuses on Neurovascular

OCTOBER 6, 2005
RAPHAEL TAMARGO, M.D.
Walter E. Dandy Professor
Professor of Neurosurgery
Professor of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Director, Division of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

NOVEMBER 3, 2005
JEAN RAYMOND, M.D.
Neuroradiologist, Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM, University of Montreal Hospital Centre)
Director of the Interventional Neuroradiology Research Laboratory, Professor, Department of Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Montreal.

DECEMBER 1, 2005
JOHN D. BARR, M.D.
Chief, Interventional Neuroradiology & Neuroangiography
Baptist Memorial Hospitals, Memphis, Tennessee

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2005
CAROLYN FRYE HALLORAN SYMPOSIUM
STEM CELLS AND GLIOMA
A two-day seminar open to the public

For updated information on Neurosurgery Grand Rounds, visit the Neurosurgery Educational Website at
http://grandrounds.neurosurg.info

THE BALKIN FAMILY LECTURE ON NEUROSURGERY AND NEURO-ONCOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005
8:00 A.M.
THE ETHER DOME
MEDULLOBLASTOMA: A quest for novel therapeutic targets

James T Rutka, MD, PhD
Division of Neurosurgery
The Hospital for Sick Children
The University of Toronto
Born in Toronto, and educated at Princeton University (1975-1977), and Queen's University Medical School (1977-1981), Dr. Rutka did an internship at McGill University (1981-1982) before entering the University of Toronto Neurosurgery Training Program in 1982. His training included a research fellowship at the Brain Tumor Research Centre, the University of California San Francisco where he obtained his PhD in Experimental Pathology (1984-1987). Upon conclusion of his neurosurgical residency 1989, Dr. Rutka did a post-doctoral research fellowship in molecular immunology at Juntendo University, Tokyo (1990).

Dr. Rutka assumed his appointment in the Department of Surgery, Division of Neurosurgery in 1990, and has been on the surgical staff at the Hospital for Sick Children in the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery since that time.

Dr. Rutka’s primary research and clinical interests relate to the science and surgery of human brain tumors. His laboratory interests lie in the molecular biology of human brain tumors - specifically in the determination of the mechanisms by which brain tumors grow and invade. His recent clinical and research interests have centred on the surgical treatment of epilepsy in children. He has over 200 peer review publications. He is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Neurosurgery and N eurosurgery. He is Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. He has been appointed as the first Director of the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Centre at the University of Toronto in 1998.

In 1999, he received a Scientist Award from the Medical Research Council of Canada. This same year, Dr. Rutka was appointed Chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto, and sits in the Dan Family Chair of Neurosurgery.

In 2001 Dr. Rutka received the Lister Award in the Department of Neurosurgery for sustained contributions to surgical research at the University of Toronto.

In 2002, Dr. Rutka was listed by Globe and Mail as one of the Nation Builders in Canada, in the section of Science and Technology. This same year, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the AANS. In 2004, he was honored with the Grass Award from the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

In 2005, he received the Farber Award from the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors for longstanding contributions to neuro-oncology research.

Dr. Rutka’s research is funded by five grants, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Cancer Research Network, the Candidate Institute of Health, the National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.