EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Neurosurgery

Newsletter - Spring 2015 Volume 1 Issue 1

Dr. Oyesiku Presented with Gentle Giant Award

The Pituitary Network Association (PNA) presented Nelson Oyesiku, MD, PhD, FACS, with the prestigious Gentle Giant Award during its Pituitary Education Day. The PNA's Gentle Giant Award honors those that present an outstanding contribution and dedication to pituitary patient care and education. Through great strides in pituitary knowledge, diagnosis and treatment, Dr. Oyesiku's remarkable research and dedication to optimum quality of life for his pituitary patients is quite commendable, exceeding 2,000 successful surgeries.

CNN News Anchor Fredricka Whitfield served as the event's keynote speaker and emcee. Ms. Whitfield's tribute was followed by a heartwarming tribute from Dr. Daniel Barrow, Pamela Rollins Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery.

Dr. Oyesiku works with Adriana Ioachimescu, MD, PhD, FACE, and a team of clinicians in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with pituitary tumors at Emory's Pituitary Center. The Center has a national and global referral base that provides patients with comprehensive and personalized medical and surgical management of pituitary disorders. Dr. Ioachimescu was recently elected to the International Board of Directors of The Pituitary Society.

Clinical and research focus for Dr. Oyesiku includes the surgical treatment and molecular biology of pituitary tumors, and he is one of a few surgeons in the U.S. and worldwide, utilizing advanced 3-D endoscopic surgery for resection of pituitary tumors. This technology provides the surgeon with improved spatial resolution, which makes surgery safer for patients.

Dr. Oyesiku, who joined the Emory faculty in 1993, is currently Professor of Neurological Surgery and Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) at Emory University, as well as Director of the Neurosurgery Residency Program. He occupies the Al Lerner Chair in Neurosurgery and is Vice-Chairman of the Department. He also heads the Laboratory of Molecular Neurosurgery and Biotechnology.

Department of Neurosurgery Receives Endowment

The O. Wayne Rollins Foundation and family continued its long-standing support of Emory University by recently contributing a $6 million endowment to the Department of Neurosurgery to establish two funds, the O. Wayne and Grace Crum Rollins Endowed Fund for Neurosurgery and the Pamela R. Rollins Chair in Neurosurgery. Our department chairman, Daniel Barrow, MD, was appointed to the newly created chair. Robert Gross, MD, PhD, was awarded the MBNA/Bowman Chair for Neurological Surgery previously held by Dr. Barrow.

The Rollins family sought to recognize and honor a long-standing friendship with Dr. Barrow through the creation of the Pamela R. Rollins Chair and its associated O. Wayne and Grace Crum Rollins Endowed Fund. Dr. Barrow, who has held the position of department chair for 20 years, replaced George Tindall, MD, in 1995. Through his leadership, the department has seen significant growth, including the development of the first dedicated intensive care unit for neurosurgical patients in Georgia as well as the development of the MBNA Stroke Center. He has been active in organized neurosurgery, holding a variety of leadership and editorial positions in numerous societies including the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, American Board of Neurological Surgery, Georgia Neurosurgical Society and AANS/CNS Washington Committee.

In addition to his new appointment, Dr. Gross was recently appointed director of the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Medical Scientist Training Program at Emory. The program is designed to provide students with the in-depth, high caliber research training and medical education required of future academicians. He is also director and cofounder of Emory's Neuromodulation and Technology Innovation Center (ENTICe), while holding appointments in the Departments of Neurosurgery, Neurology and Biomedical Engineering.

We would like to thank the Rollins family for providing this magnanimous endowment, which will help further our commitment to research and the exceptional treatment and well-being of our patients.

Resident Spotlight

Neurosurgery resident Chris Holland was awarded the 2015 Cahill Fellowship in the amount of $30,000, which will be awarded at the 2015 Spine Section Annual Meeting in Phoenix. This fellowship will play an important part in Chris' future as a neurosurgeon, as he begins a complex and minimally invasive spine fellowship at the University of Utah in July. Chris also recently returned from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons/European Association of Neurological Societies' Cerebrovascular Course on Vascular Neurosurgery in Uppsala, Sweden. As one of four U.S. residents selected to participate, he attended courses devoted to didactic lectures, group discussion and operative case presentations.

Originally from Londonderry, N.H., Chris received his undergraduate degree from Boston College, before earning his PhD and MD from Boston University. In his spare time, Chris enjoys downhill skiing, sailing and scuba diving.

Surgical Skill Laboratory Created

The enthusiasm and commitment by our residents to their education and training is second-to-none, specifically a hands-on course entitled "Microsurgical Neuroanatomy of Open and Endoscopic Approaches to the Skull Base." With this important learning component taking place in multiple locations on an off Emory's campus, a dedicated space is being developed to ensure consistency in the training of not only residents, but staff as well.

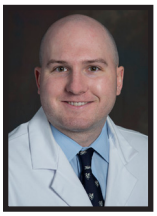
The course's permanent home will be in the Woodruff Extension Building at Grady Memorial Hospital. The space will be comprised of 600 square feet of laboratory space with the necessary infrastructure to support departmental projects. It will also house dissection stations for training with a central proctoring station, microscopic and endoscopic capabilities, as well as adequate resources for specimen preparation and storage.

In addition to the educational activities, research in microsurgical anatomy, surgical technique development and biotechnology partnerships will continue to further expand scholarly activities.

The course involves proctored dissection of preserved and latex-injected specimens to develop the residents' microsurgical skills, while enhancing their neuroanatomical knowledge. Under the direction of neurosurgery faculty with collaboration from ENT colleagues, it spans through the academic year and is comprised of 36 modules.

The department would like to thank Dr. William Sexson, Associate Dean for Clinical Services, as well as our own Gustavo Pradilla, MD, who have been champions in developing opportunities such as this for our faculty and residents at Grady.

Record Resident Attendance at GNS



Emory's presence at the Georgia Neurosurgical Society's (GNS) Fall Meeting was highlighted by Griffin Baum winning best resident presentation, as well as a record number of attendance from our residents.

In an effort to support continued education, the two-day meeting consisted of presentations and panels to help society members reach the highest possible standard of excellence. Leading the GNS is Dr. Costas Hadjipanayis, who is currently serving as the organization's president.

Baum's winning presentation was entitled "Return to Hospital System after Neurosurgery Consultation in the Pediatric Emergency Department." Faculty member Josh Chern, MD, PhD, from Pediatric Neurosurgery served as his mentor.

Resident participation included presentations from: Baum, Matthew Gary, Chris Holland, Brian Howard, Jay McCracken, Michael Moore, Jonathan Riley and Krishanthan Vigneswaran.

Research and Clinical Trial Opportunities Available

Pituitary Disorders

- A Phase III, multi-center, double-blind, randomized withdrawal study of LCI699 following a 24 week, single-arm, open-label dose titration and treatment period to evaluate the safety and efficacy of LCI699 for the treatment of patients with Cushing's disease, currently enrolling.
- Somatuline Depot (Lanreotide) injection for acromegaly: a post-marketing observational study (SODA), multicentric prospective observational study, currently enrolling.
- Molecular targeting and imaging of pituitary adenomas, currently enrolling.
- A randomized, double-blind, multicenter, phase III study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of pasireotide LAR in patients with Cushing's disease, ongoing, closed for enrollment.

Brain Tumors

- A Phase II randomized trial comparing the efficacy of heat shock protein-peptide complex-96 (HSPPC-96) (NSC #725085, ALLIANCE IND # 15380) vaccine given with Bevacizumab versus Bevacizumab alone in the treatment of surgically resectable recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM).
- Phase I trial of temozolomide, Bevacizumab plus Bortezomib for patients with recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme.
- A Phase I open label safety study to evaluate the pharmacokinetic profile and tolerance of mibefradil dose finding in subjects with recurrent high-grade glioma undergoing standard, repeated Temozolomide treatment.
- A Phase II study of 5-Aminolevulinic Acid (ALA) to enhance visualization and resection of newly diagnosed or recurrent Malignant Gliomas.

Cerebrovascular

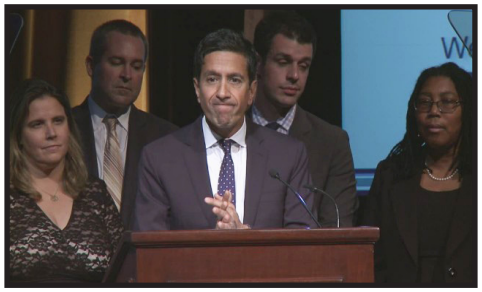
- Clinical outcomes following parafascicular surgical evacuation of intracerebral hemorrhage: A Pilot Study (MISPACE) clinicaltrials.gov Identifier: NCT01971359.
- Antihypertensive treatment of acute cerebral hemorrhage (ATACH II) clinicaltrials.gov Identifier: NCT01176565.

Traumatic Brain Injury

- Surgical critical care initiative (SC2i-sTBI). Surgical decisions and biomarkers in severe traumatic brain injury.

Gupta Honored with Prestigious duPont Award

Our very own Dr. Sanjay Gupta was recently awarded the prestigious Alfred I. duPont Award from Columbia University for CNN's "WEED: Dr. Sanjay Gupta Reports." Every year about a dozen news stories are honored by the duPont-Columbia University awards for "enterprising reporting on a timely and controversial topic, combined with compelling human portraits that broke new ground."



Over the past two years, Dr. Gupta and a team of producers traveled the world for a critical look at the research on medical marijuana and its impact on the lives of its users. With compelling personal cases, over two groundbreaking primetime hours, CNN illustrated how medical marijuana can heal and help when traditional drugs, often harmful, do not work. The documentary also took a critical look at recreational use and how the marijuana of today is much more potent and potentially dangerous than in previous generations.

For over 70 years, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards have recognized excellence in broadcast journalism. Regarded today as one of the most prestigious prizes in journalism, the duPont-Columbia Awards bring the best in broadcast, documentary and digital platforms to professional and public attention. The duPont Award is the broadcast equivalent of The Pulitzer Prize, which is awarded by the same journalism institution.