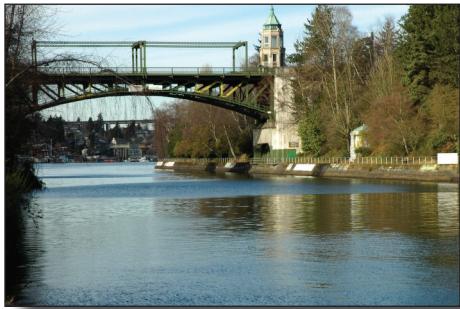


UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

The Montlake Cut



A Newsletter from the Department of Neurological Surgery
April 2009, Volume I, Number 2



For years a dilapidated Chinese laundry stood on the corner of Ninth and James, leaning against a variety of other low buildings all in various phases of disintegration. While there was never a lot of commerce apparent in any of those businesses just around the corner from the Harborview Emergency entrance, they did seem to be functional. Over a year ago, all of them were finally torn down, and the new fourteen-story, four hundred-fifty thousand square foot building pictured at lower left arose to fill that entire block. The Department of Neurological Surgery offices will soon occupy the top floor of the new structure, facing Puget Sound. This month, tenants are expected to begin moving into the Ninth and Jefferson Building -- beginning from the ground up -- so Neurological Surgery will not be completely moved in until this fall.

Bounded by Terry, Ninth, James, and Jefferson Streets, the new building will be the gateway to the Harborview campus. There is parking for six hundred vehicles, and ground level retail space in the main structure's four-story podium entered from Ninth. The King County Medical Examiner, Pathology, and UW School of Medicine Research will also be located here. In addition to Neurosurgery, the main tower will house the Eye Institute, the Hand Center, the Sports Medicine and Spine Center, Sleep Centers, Global Health, and vital King County services.

Our departmental offices will occupy approximately ten thousand square feet on the fourteenth floor, and our clinics will also move from the Pat Steel Building along with the office space. Another eight thousand square feet on the third floor is dedicated to the microsurgical ISIS and cadaver lab, which was organized with guidance from Drs. Ellenbogen and Sekhar. This half of the lab includes a proctor station that converts to a virtual OR, and eight student stations with room for sixteen people to dissect simultaneously under the supervision of a master surgeon. ENT, General Surgery, Orthopedics and other services will also utilize learning tools available in this functional laboratory where residents and students can learn the normal and abnormal anatomy of the head and neck by microscopic dissection. A second part of the laboratory provides simulated learning for physicians and other health care professionals, including arthroscopic and laparoscopic training, as well as robotics. State-of-the-art teleconferencing will permit interactive educational opportunities for students across the WWAMI region. Instrumentation, microscopes, and computer programs were, in part, donated by various corporations. The lab is scheduled to open this October.

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Faculty Profile

George Ojemann



There must be people somewhere named Ojemann who aren't doctors, but not many of them live in Seattle or Boston. Occasionally we fail to completely appreciate those members of our own faculty to the extent that they are venerated around the world. One example is George Ojemann, born in Iowa City in 1935, educated at the University of Iowa, the University of Washington, and NIH. Along the path of his career he has gathered just about every honor one can collect in the academic doctor business.

His first publication with John Van Buren, titled "Fronto-striate Arrest Response in Man," signaled the course of his remarkable career as one of the world's leading neuroscientists studying epilepsy as well as speech and language. In these interests, he is a direct descendant of Wilder Penfield through Arthur Ward. Since that first report, George has published 304 scientific papers (2 more are in press) and four books. He has been an editor for nine different journals, including the Journal of Neurosurgery, an advisor to NIH in several capacities, and-- just to name a few of the flashier organizations--a member of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery (President-1999), American Association for the Advancement of Science, Congress of Neurological Surgery, Society for Neuroscience, and the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

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Furthermore, he has delivered more than thirteen named lectures and has been visiting professor at more than thirty-five institutions, ranging from Mass General in Boston to the Ministry of Health in Singapore. In partial recognition of these achievements, Dr. Ojemann was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Medical College of Ohio, Distinguished Alumni Award from Iowa, plus five other national and international prizes and awards.

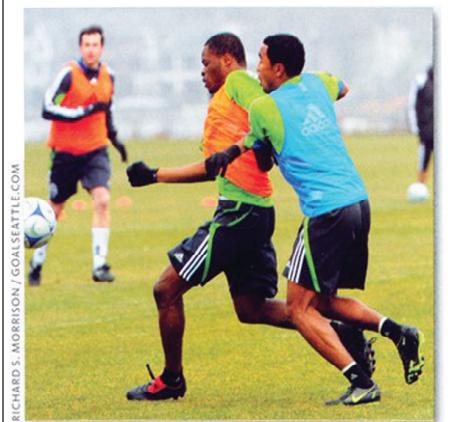
George and his wife, the neurologist Linda Moretti Ojemann, have three children, all doctors including two neurosurgeons and an ER specialist. His brother Robert, of course, is Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard. In spite of his international fame, Dr. Ojemann is still grateful, he notes, for the opportunities he was given in life to care for the sick, to have a career as a clinical investigator, and to raise a family in Seattle. He continues to work as Director of Research and emeritus Professor of UW Neurological Surgery.

Basic Science Goes Pro

Rick Morrison

GOAL Oriented

Sounders FC brings "the beautiful game" to Seattle By Jeff Meisner



RICHARD S. MORRISON / GOALSEATTLE.COM

You'd suppose that a research scientist specializing in the genetics and cellular biology of neuronal cell death would have a lot of interests, but you might not guess that being a sports photographer would be one of them. Nonetheless, Professor Rick Morrison has combined exactly those professional and leisure pursuits. His contributions to neuroscience are well known, but he began taking action photographs of his two soccer-playing daughters a couple of years ago, and did it so well at it that an agent asked to represent him as a photographer to the Seattle Sounders when they were still in the USL. Soon his images started to appear on Web-sites and in print, including on the pages of the Alaska Airlines Magazine (*pictured at left*). Rick notes with both pride and trepidation that he'll "be present on the pitch at Qwest Field photographing the historic first game between the new MLS expansion team Seattle Sounders FC and the New York Red Bulls before an expected 32,000 fans. I only hope that I retain the composure to snap the shutter!" Congratulations, Rick, in this economy, such diversity is good job security.

Where Are They Now?

Allen Wyler



I've been blessed (or cursed, depending your point of view) with a multi-faceted career. After a short wrong turn down the road to psychiatry, I chose neurosurgery, in part, because of my admiration for Arthur Ward's approach to clinical investigation and neuroscience. I finished the residency in 1974 and joined the faculty. In 1984 I moved from the University of Washington to a large epilepsy surgery practice at the University of Tennessee, Memphis—the polar opposite of my UW experience. Instead of intensely academic it was high volume clinical. By 1992 I felt I'd exhausted that life, and so returned to a new epilepsy service at Swedish.

In 2000, I began consulting for a medical technology start-up company, Northstar Neuroscience. They were investigating the sub-threshold electrical stimulation of motor cortex given concomitantly with upper extremity muscle strengthening exercises to enhance hand/arm motor recovery after stroke. I became so intrigued with that idea that in 2001 left clinical practice to become their medical director, and helped the company through three clinical trials and an IPO. In January of 2008 I retired, but serve as a consultant to another medical technology start-up, NeuroVista.

Those were the day jobs, but I have a secret life, too. I've always loved reading fiction and often flirted with the dream of writing a novel—a thriller. So after my wife Lilly and I returned to Seattle in '92, I began work on my first book, which is so bad it's still in the back of my desk drawer. Eventually I sold DEADLY ERRORS to Forge/Tor, now published in two U.S. editions and also in several European countries. My second thriller is DEAD HEAD. I love the process of creating pulp fiction and will continue to do it as long as there are publishers crazy enough to print them. To learn more, please visit my website: www.allenwyler.com

The Alvord Center, created at a time when understanding of the human genome offers an opportunity for pure science and clinical neurosurgery to partner in the search for innovative treatment strategies...

Late-Breaking News

Thanks to yet more generous donations to the university by the distinguished neuropathologist Ellsworth (Buster) Alvord and his wife Nancy, the new UW Medicine Alvord Center for Neurological Oncology will create high-level faculty positions in the departments of neurology, neurological surgery, radiation oncology, radiology, pathology and medicine. The goal of this center is to promote more coordinated and integrated approaches to the basic science research and clinical treatment of CNS tumors. The Alvord Center, created at a time when understanding of the human genome offers an opportunity for pure science and clinical neurosurgery to partner in the search for innovative treatment strategies, may rapidly provide new hope for patients with these vexing neoplasms.

Assistant Professor Sam Browd writes that Seattle Children's has recently joined the Hydrocephalus Clinical Research Network along with other children's centers in Salt Lake City, Toronto, Birmingham, and Houston. Sam and his colleagues Rich Ellenbogen, Tony Avellino, and Jeff Ojemann are also part of multicenter research collaboration through the new Pediatric Craniocervical Society, a branch of the AANS/CNS Spine Section. New imaging techniques available at Children's pairing functional MRI with diffusion tensor imaging now enable tumor mapping to be used with intra-operative neuro-navigation in an effort to improve the extent of tumor resection and at the same time spare normal brain.

and... the Babies!

One advantage of young faculty members is in having babies around. Adam Hebb, Assistant Professor, and his wife had a daughter, Catherine, in January. We also note with delight that Virany Hillard, Assistant Professor and her husband are scheduled to become parents for the second time in June.

And there's a new third generation coming, too. At the University Hospital, Sharon Andrews, assistant to Drs. Silbergeld, Tredway and Kliot, was just recognized for her twenty years of service at the same time she's anticipating her first grandchild in May. In counterbalance to Sharon's twenty years, we welcome ARNPs Justin Speyer and Hailey Kirkpatrick who have recently been hired in the University Hospital Neurosurgery Clinic.

Late, late news -- Seventh year resident Tim Lucas and his wife Patricia had a baby daughter, Sophia Ellen, born the evening of March 28. Congratulations!

The Montlake Cut is a quarterly newsletter published by the Department of Neurological Surgery at your University of Washington School of Medicine. We hope to keep the neurosurgeons in the entire WWAMI Region informed about resources available through the university system and, just as importantly, to learn from you any information about your lives and practices that you care to provide. Especially for the graduates of our program, as well as former staff and faculty, we welcome e-mail or letters describing your current activities and reminiscences about your time at UW. We will continue to feature stories about former staff members of the department in the "Where Are They Now?" section, along with news of current faculty, staff and residents.

We sincerely hope that the newsletter will evolve into a collegial method for sharing news and information electronically throughout the region. Please contact us at the addresses below. If you wish not to receive the Montlake Cut, please let us know and we'll remove your name from the distribution list.

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