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The Montlake Cut

Winter 2016

A View From Puget Sound

Happy New Year!

Our faculty continues to be active, from writing historical narratives to developing novel translational research on TBI. You will read about an ongoing piece of UW historical legacy being documented by Professors George Ojemann and John Loeser.

Professors Randall Chesnut and Nancy Temkin and the TBI team continue to investigate the best practices for treating severe TBI in resource-poor nations.

The UW/VICIS scientific team has been justly rewarded with another grant for their innovative design of a new football helmet.

We catch up on our new fabulous additions, Dr. David Primrose, Maureen Johnson and Ann Fillingham. Lastly, life's special treats include Josh Osburn getting married and the welcoming of 3 new departmental babies!

Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS
Professor & Chairman
Department of Neurological Surgery

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Traumatic Brain Injury Conference in Buenos Aires to Develop Guidelines for Treating Severe TBI in Resource-Poor Environments World-Wide

By Jim Pridgeon

Over 40 Traumatic Brain Injury experts from 13 countries in Latin America, (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela) recently met in Buenos Aires, Argentina to develop Consensus Based Guidelines for treating severe TBI in clinical settings lacking intracranial pressure monitoring devices commonly used to direct treatment in high resource areas. There are currently no guidelines for treating more than 80% of TBI patients in the world. This consensus process marks the first time TBI treatment guidelines have been developed specifically focused on resource poor centers. The conference is being led by University of Washington Principal Investigators Randall Chesnut, MD, and Nancy Temkin, PhD, and Latin American Principal Investigator Walter Videtta, MD. The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Neurologic Diseases and Stroke and Fogarty International Center).

The Global Tragedy of TBI

TBI is a major cause of mortality and disability world-wide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), TBI is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults around the world. More than 90% of these injuries occur in resource poor regions, and are a significant cause of mortality and morbidity.

The 1996 and 2010 Global Burden of Disease reports found Latin America had the highest incidence of intracranial injury worldwide. A recent WHO study projected that trauma would be a leading cause of death in the region by the year 2020. In much of Latin America this is already true. Road Injuries among men and women 15-49 are the 1st or 2nd leading cause of death in many of the countries participating in this NIH-Funded study. In addition about 30% of traffic-related injuries involve pedestrians.

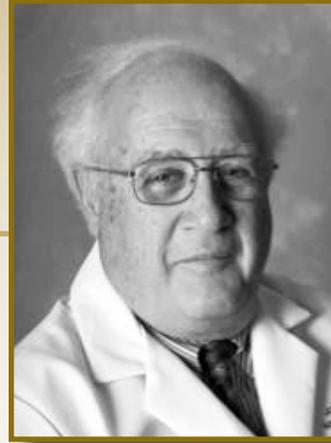
Study Description

The NIH Study entitled “Managing Severe TBI without ICP Monitoring, Guidelines Development and Testing”, (NIH NINDS/FIC 1R01NS080648, R. Chesnut, MD, PI) aims to create and evaluate guidelines for treating severe TBI in adolescents and adults in the absence of ICP monitoring. During the week-long Consensus Based Guidelines conference a team of 40 Central and South American clinicians practicing in austere environments in low and middle-income countries, and who make decisions based on a treatment protocol and clinical experience, will develop the study design. They will use new systematic and innovative technologies and processes to achieve consensus and implement the guidelines. Validating the effect of these guidelines on severe TBI outcomes in a before/after design in these two sets of centers is the study objective.

A History of the Department is Being Written



George Ojemann, MD



John Loeser, MD

George Ojemann and **John Loeser**, with a combined neurosurgical experience of over 100 years, are nearing the completion of their History of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington. They have gone back to the original documents archived first by founding Chairman Dr. Arthur Ward, and have solicited contributions from former residents about their memories of the past nearly seven decades in our Department. The stories of the evolution of today's programs for resident education, medical school teaching, patient care, and research have been the center of these efforts.

Originally established in 1948 as the Neurosurgery Division in the Department of Surgery, UW Department of Neurological Surgery became a separate department entity in the School of Medicine in 1965. The Division, and now the UW Department of Neurological Surgery has had only three Chairmen, and the History includes archived material from over 6 decades. We have continuously expanded our activities for the past 68 years, while strengthening the mission of improving patient lives and the health of our greater community. Dr. Ward's vision of a Department that conducted cutting edge research, educated residents and students and provided excellent patient care set the stage for what has become a collection of activities involving now six medical centers and has grown exponentially. The clinical and research faculty publishes more than 100 original scientific papers annually, has over 50 patents and has borne several commercial ventures. The Department has witnessed astronomical growth in their clinical and extramural funded research footprint and has graduated over 101 residents.

While Drs. Loeser and Ojemann weren't the original residents (that honor went to Larry Knopp), they have both been here a long time and have themselves made major scientific, clinical, and educational contributions, among which are having been teachers for many of the current staff. Both just celebrated their 80th birthdays in December. Their collected memories of the department will provide a lasting legacy for future faculty, residents and students. They anticipate this history soon will be ready for publication.

UW/VICIS Football Helmet Wins 2nd Prestigious Grant



In early December, the University of Washington was named a final winner of the Head Health Challenge II, a collaboration between the NFL, GE and Under Armour, for the innovative football helmet being developed by commercialization partner, VICIS. The Head Health Challenge is a search for solutions that prevent, measure and detect brain injury. Its sponsors awarded UW a \$500,000 phase 1 grant in November 2014. The UW will now receive an additional \$250,000 grant to complete development of the breakthrough VICIS football helmet.

Over the course of 2015, VICIS and the UW have made strong progress in the development of the new football helmet, designed to better mitigate the forces likely to cause concussion. Recognition of these development advances led to UW's selection as a final winner and grant recipient. Details of the VICIS technology and design are being kept under wraps until the helmet, named ZERO1, will be publicly unveiled in early January.

“We have completely reimagined the football helmet, leveraging the latest thinking in engineering, medicine and sport,” said Dr. Sam Browde, VICIS Chief Medical Officer and Adjunct Associate Professor of Bioengineering and affiliate faculty of the Foster School of Business. “The grants awarded by the Head Health Challenge sponsors have greatly accelerated development of the ZERO1.”

More than 500 proposals from 19 countries were submitted to the phase 1 Head Health Challenge II competition. Three final winners were named on December 4th. Launched in March 2013, the Head Health Challenge initiative is an open innovation challenge aimed to improve brain protection and prevent injury for athletes, members of the military and society at-large by identifying and funding innovative solutions for head health.



David Primrose, MD Joins the Faculty

David Primrose didn't know that he wanted to be a neurosurgeon since the first grade. He grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis, MN, playing in the snow (just like all the other kids) for ten months out of the year (the other two months it was too cold to go outside). Still not smart enough after high school to leave the Midwest, he attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. At Macalester he had a very interesting medical psychology class where he was able to make deep brain lesions stereotactically in rats. He was fascinated by the whole process, and his interest in being a neurosurgeon was born. He was lucky enough to have an excellent neurology mentor in the second year of medical school at the University of Minnesota (still not smart enough to leave the Midwest). Working with Dr. Anderson confirmed for David that the nervous system was where it was at, and after very good experiences on general surgery and neurosurgery rotations, he felt that neurological surgery would be a great way to spend a lifetime.

During his residency at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY (not much better than the Midwest), he maintained his interest in the brain. At the completion of the seven-year residency, which included two years of bench research, David was lucky enough to be able to do an epilepsy surgery fellowship for a year. He spent six months in Montreal (definitely not better than the Midwest), and then arrived in Seattle (God's country) to spend six months with Dr. George Ojemann and his team. Committed to going back to the State University in Syracuse, and did so for a year. However life, a wife, and three kids got in the way and he decided that being a competent doctor and surgeon, really his strong points anyway, was enough for him. He moved permanently to Seattle and was fortunate to be able to work with two great mentors, Drs. Richard Rapport and John Howe. After twenty-four full years of practicing neurosurgery in Seattle, he has come full circle and is back at Harborview where he was twenty-six years earlier as a young man.

Two New Staff Members Join the Department



Maureen and her family

Maureen Johnson joined the Department in mid-October as the first Administrator of the Sports Health and Safety Institute (SHSI). Founded by an initial gift from the NFL, the SHSI will promote education and advocacy for the health and safety of all athletes participating in all sports. Maureen has been at the UW since 2011. She spent 3 years in the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Health and almost 2 years in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Prior to coming to the UW, Maureen was at FHCRC for 18 years and 6 years at The National Bureau of Asian Research, where she served as the Bureau's Institutional Director. There she helped launch a health summit that included dignitaries and executives from around the globe. A native of the Pacific Northwest Maureen and her husband, Warren, have two sons, Andy, 19, a sophomore at UW and member of the UW Rugby team, and Peter, 18, a senior at O'Dea High School. Maureen and Warren enjoy spending time cheering on their boys, as well as the Huskies and the Seahawks. She has an office on the 14th floor of NJB, and will be working closely with Stan Herring, Director elect of the SHSI. She can be reached at mej924@uw.edu.



Ann Fillingham is Dr. Ellenbogen's new Executive Assistant. Ann has worked at the UW since December 2010, first as an Event Manager for University Advancement where she coordinated the annual Donor Recognition Gala and President's Club reception, and then as Assistant to two Directors at the School of Medicine Dean's Office Business Unit. Prior to joining the University, she spent over 12 years managing events and PR at Macy's. She continues to organize their day after Thanksgiving annual Holiday parade in Downtown Seattle. Originally from Ontario, Canada, Ann grew up in Hartsdale, New York and spent two years at Barnard College before moving to Los Angeles and graduating from UCLA. While living in L.A., Ann coordinated Bob Kerrey's California campaign for president. She has great administrative and organizational skills and is a technical wiz. We are so happy to have her in this critical role. Ann is located directly outside of Dr. Ellenbogen's office and can be reached at 744-9321 and annmck@uw.edu

Josh & Alex Got Hitched

Former resident Josh Osbun, who finished in 2014 and is now a Neurovascular Fellow at Emory, and Alexandra Schatz, a former spectacular NCCU nurse here who became a CRNA, got married on September 19th at the Buckner Orchard in Stehekin in a small ceremony with closest friends and family. And everyone in the department thought it was about time! Pictured is the wedding party in the orchard and an “engagement” picture with their dog Sawyer.



WSNA Announces New Officers

Farrokh Farrokhi, current President the Washington Association of Neurological Surgeons, recently announced the new members of the WSNA leadership team.

Dr. Abhineet “Minku” Chowdhary from Overlake Hospital (and former UW resident) will be taking on the duties of Treasurer. Keeping us on track and compliant on the financial front.

Dr. Vishal Gala from Group Health will be assuming the role of Secretary. His focus will be on expanding membership and engagement in our neurosurgical community.

Dr. Andrew Ko from the University of Washington will be serving as our Historian. He will lead us in completing efforts on the written history of neurosurgery in Washington State.

NICU - New Babies!

Melissa Gerdees is proud to announce the birth of her first child, Myles James in August 2015.



Nichole Farr is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Noemie Ella in October 2015. This is also their first child.



Bridgette Solomon is also proud to announce the birth of her first child. Bennett was born in October 2015. Bridgette has decided to leave the NICUS to pursue being a mom full time.





Dr. Minku Chowdhary

Director, Neurosurgery
Overlake Hospital

Puzzler



New Puzzler

Q: From its native language, which is highly agglutinated, the name of this condition is an oxymoron of proposed effects which can occur pregnant females. What is the disease process?

Previous Puzzler

Today, we will decode a medical mystery. This organism works rapidly to kill its human host. Despite being one of many species in its genus, it is the only one that infects humans. Fill in the following blanks to get the clues to solve this puzzle:

1. Johnny was the **BUTT** of many jokes.
2. This food **ENABLER (PAM, product of Arthur Meyerhoff)** was developed during Harry Truman's presidency and was the brainchild of an advertising executive who the product is actually named after.
3. Buster was a world renowned bird hunting dog, a veritable **FOWLER**.

Final Answer: Naegleria fowleri, brain eating amoeba, causes primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)

We remain eager to publish stories and photos about all aspects and activities of the Department. Please share your memories, ideas and suggestions for stories and news items that expand our common ground. Please contact us at these email addresses:

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