

Neurotransmitter

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Cover Illustration: OHSU Neurological Surgery Clinical Faculty

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Introduction

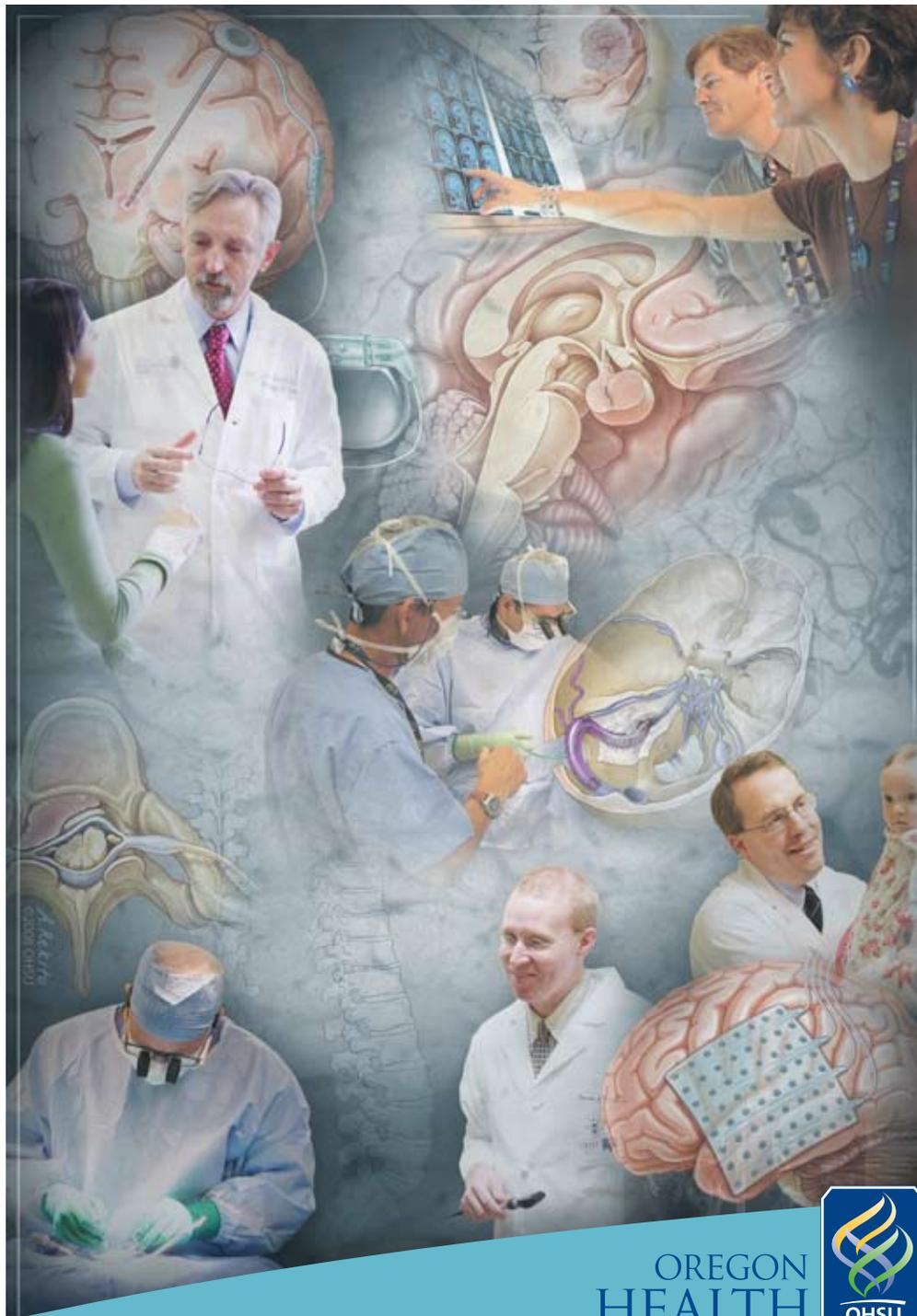
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Portland area residents select
OHSU Health System as best

2005/06

CONSUMER CHOICE #1

NATIONAL RESEARCH
Corporation

OREGON
HEALTH
& SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY



John Raaf Professor and Chairman

Kim J. Burchiel, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Neurosurgery

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 Kim J. Burchiel, M.D., F.A.C.S.
 Johnny B. Delashaw, Jr., M.D.
 Aclan Dogan, M.D.
 Jorge L. Eller, M.D.
 Edmund H. Frank, M.D., F.A.C.S.
 Daniel Guillaume, M.D.
 Andrew N. Nemecek, M.D.
 Edward A. Neuwelt, M.D.
 Nathan R. Selden, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.

Neuroendocrinology

Maria Flaseriu, M.D.

Neurointensivist

Anish Bhardwaj, M.D.

Neuroradiology

Gary Nesbit, M.D.

Neuropsychology

David Gostnell, Ph.D.
 Richard Kolbell, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Otolaryngology

Sean O. McMenemy, M.D.

Pain Management

Kim J. Burchiel, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Physician Assistants

Stephen Giles, M.S., P.A.-C., Ph.D.
 Anthony Gomez, M.S., P.A.-C.
 Lynne Nguyen, P.A.-C.

Nurse Practitioners

Wendy O. Domreis, M.S., R.N., C.P.N.P.
 Jane Olsen, R.N., C.R.N.P.
 Laurie Yablon, M.S., C.P.N.P.
 Chris G. Yedinak, M.N., C.F.N.P.

Research

Valerie C. Anderson, Ph.D., M.C.R.
 Thomas K. Baumann, Ph.D.
 Mary M. Heinricher, Ph.D.

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Harold D. Paxton, M.D.

Administration

Sally Rodgers, M.A.
 Shirley McCartney, Ph.D.
 Andy Rekitto, M.S.

OHSU Neurotransmitter is published by the Department of Neurological Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, School of Medicine, for colleagues, alumni and friends of the department.

For inquiries, submissions or suggestions, please contact Shirley McCartney, Ph.D., at 503 494-7469 or mccartns@ohsu.edu. Learn more about us on our website: www.ohsu.edu/neurosurgery

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Chairman's Update

Harold Lasswell (1902-1978) was one of the leading American political scientists and communications theorists of his time. He is well-known for his definition of communication: "Who (says) What (to) Whom (in) What Channel (with) What effect." This maxim can be easily applied to clinical communication. The effect we strive to achieve is excellent patient care. The "who" and "whom" are clearly healthcare practitioners. The "channel" is a bit more complicated.

Today, we have many means of communicating information, such as "snail mail", e-mail, fax, and the Web. We sometimes forget that the oldest, and still one of the most efficient means, is person-to-person communication: either face-to-face, or over the phone. As our broadband systems improve, we may be able to exploit the Web for more extemporaneous communication by Web conferencing, which may bring us full circle, back to the personal encounter that is as old as human history.

One of the historical criticisms of university healthcare facilities and faculty has been a relative lack of communication regarding mutual, sometimes referred, patients. Although we have considerable room for improvement, one of my chief goals is to eliminate obstacles to clinical communication, and to make our department, and our University Medical Group, effective in the communication of medical information. I do believe that the "white tower" culture of the medical school is gradually fading away. However, to be candid, we still see vestiges of it in our medical group, and in our own department. My commitment is to eliminate these barriers in our department, and in our university medical practice.

How are we doing this? Foremost, we are changing the culture at the level of the individual practitioner. In addition to that we are working with Mark O'Hollaren, M.D., and Denise Askelson Higgins, in the OHSU Clinical Outreach & Physician Liaison Program. Their job is to meet with individual physicians and physician groups to determine how we can more effectively communicate with our referring physicians. We continue to depend on OHSU Consult, the 24/365 hotline for physicians to reach OHSU specialists when they are confronted with a clinical issue, or are in need of a quick consultation. We are also now well into our second year with our new electronic medical record, EPIC. EPIC allows same-day communication of consultations to referring physicians by fax and other means. EPIC also allows patients to view and update parts of their medical record in MyChart. Lastly, in the specific instance of the Department of Neurological Surgery, department director Sally Rodgers is making personal visits to referring physician offices to determine how we can best serve their needs, and improve our communication.

Communication is a relationship, and as such it requires continuous attention and development. Our message to patients and referring physicians is that we are trying hard to build those relationships.

Let us know how we can do better.



Kim J. Burchiel, M.D., F.A.C.S.
 John Raaf Professor and Chairman
 OHSU Neurological Surgery



2nd Campagna Scholar in Neurological Surgery

Thanks to the kind philanthropic gesture of Dr. Mario Campagna and his wife, Edith, the Department of Neurological Surgery is pleased to continue the Campagna Scholarship in Neurological Surgery. This unique scholarship supports a 10-week summer semester of research under the supervision of a neurosurgical mentor at OHSU and covers residence expenses in Portland. Students in the first or second year of study at an accredited U.S. medical school are eligible to apply. One scholar is selected annually.

The scholar selected for the summer of 2008 is **David Panczykowski**, a medical student at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. The goal of his study is to determine the extent to which the morbidity of developing cerebral vasospasm after an aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage is decreased by treatment with endovascular coiling compared to treatment by neurosurgical clipping.



Improving Patient Care in Oregon by Mark O'Hollaren, M.D.

OHSU Clinical Outreach & Physician Liaison Programs

Since its inception more than 100 years ago, OHSU has recognized the value and importance of physician-physician relationships in the healing process. To that end, we established our clinical outreach program in 2005, to enhance relationships between physicians at OHSU and those serving in communities throughout the region. Our ultimate goal is to more easily and effectively bring the entire breadth of services OHSU has to offer to all those we serve.

The clinical outreach program includes a physician liaison team, which serves as a personal contact point for physicians, administrators, practice managers and staff. Our physician liaisons may assist you with referrals, facilitate communication, introduce you to new OHSU physicians, as well as provide a number of other services. They are here to listen to your needs, and to show you how OHSU can help you confront the many challenges you face in clinical practice.

We always welcome your feedback, and look forward to continually improving our service to you. We are striving to serve as a regional and national leader in enhancing the quality and coordination of health care. We believe we can accomplish this by listening to those physicians and patients we serve, and by incorporating that feedback into clinical program design and service standards.

Our OHSU physician liaison team can provide:

- Information on clinical specialists, specialty services and technology
- Referral guidelines and assistance
- Patient education materials
- Maps of the OHSU campus, as well as faculty directories and CVs
- Assistance resolving specific access issues
- Visits by OHSU physicians to your community practice
- Speakers for CME, as well as medical staff meetings or retreats
- Information on clinical trial participation
- OHSU visits and tours

We consider it a privilege to share in the care of your patients, and consider you a vital partner in our mission to improve the health of all Oregonians. Enhancing relationships with our physician partners throughout the region is an important part of OHSU's strategy to improve the health of all those we serve. With your help, we are working hard to set the benchmark for collegial, cost-effective and collaborative excellence in academic medicine.

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Referring Physicians: How can we help you? by Denise Askelson Higgins

OHSU and the OHSU Medical Group value the relationships we have with our referring providers. Our goal in the neurological surgery department is to work closely with you to focus decisions and care plans on your patients' individual needs and best interests. As the state's only academic health center, the breadth and depth of our services make us the regional resource for providers throughout Oregon, southern Washington, western Idaho, Alaska, Montana and northern California. OHSU treats the most complex cases, yields the best outcomes, and does it at the lowest cost.

Referrals, Consults & Transfers

OHSU Physician Consult is your direct link to physicians and services at OHSU. The toll-free telephone number, **800 245-6478**, is answered by a Physician Consult resource specialist who has been trained to provide quick and appropriate connections to OHSU physicians and services. Physician Consult staff can assist with referrals, consults, transfers, or other needs.

Referral Assistance

OHSU physician liaisons work to ensure ease of access to OHSU physicians, clinical services, and other resources. They work with physicians and administrators to solve problems that referring physicians and referral coordinators encounter, and help referring physicians get follow-up information about patients. Please contact the OHSU Physician Liaison Program to request any of the following referral assistance services:

- Expedited referral process
- Issue resolution
- Access to providers and services
- Clinical information pertaining to your patient
- OHSU referral guides

Quality and Service

We encourage you to view OHSU patient outcomes data on our Web site at www.ohsu.edu/health (see [quality and service](#)).

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Electronic Health Record

In Summer 2004, OHSU Healthcare launched a major initiative to transform the way we manage and deliver ambulatory patient care using the latest in electronic health record systems - Epic.

Why Epic?

Epic connects all patient information into one integrated system. For the first time, all patient records, both ambulatory and inpatient, are linked, providing unprecedented continuity of care for our patients.

“Big Bang Go-Live” implementation

Sunday, April 13, was truly a day of epic proportion for OHSU. At approximately 8 a.m. our electronic medical records system, Epic, was successfully launched in OHSU and Doernbecher hospitals. The implementation of an electronic medical record, first in our outpatient practices and now in our hospitals, is the single largest initiative in OHSU Healthcare history.

Numerous teams representing every facet of patient care worked tirelessly to ensure the successful rollout of inpatient Epic. In just three months, more than 9,000 employees completed the course work necessary to use Epic in an inpatient setting – a phenomenal achievement.

Why is the transition to an electronic medical record so significant?

OHSU now can enhance patient safety and service excellence. We can document care concurrently and unify patient information. An electronic medical record supports communication across systems, processes and people. Centralized charting means patients are seen as whole people; their health and well-being can now be assessed from an integrated perspective.

This technology supports many of OHSU’s Vision 2020 strategic goals: Interdisciplinary collaboration, accountability and minimizing risk. It enhances OHSU’s mission of healing, teaching, discovery and service. Health is improved, students will be trained in Epic as part of their OHSU education, and research can access standardized data collection and archiving. The electronic medical record also supports OHSU’s commitment to being green by saving literally tons of paper and resources.

The inpatient phase of Epic implementation will continue through December 2008, with ongoing software additions and upgrades for years to come.

Adapted from DirectLine-A message from the OHSU President.

MyChart

Secure, Private Online Access to Your OHSU Health Information

MyChart is an easy-to-use Internet tool that provides secure, convenient access to your OHSU health information from anywhere, at any time. With MyChart, you can conveniently schedule or cancel appointments, view test results, ask a non-urgent medical question, review details about a recent visit, and even manage your child’s or family member’s health care.

- View Test Results
- Schedule Appointments
- Ask a Non-Urgent Question
- Review Your Health History

MyChart is Not for Urgent Medical Matters

How to Sign Up for OHSU MyChart

To sign up for OHSU MyChart, you must have your MyChart Activation letter in front of you. If you haven’t received a MyChart Activation Letter, here’s how to get one:

- You must be seen for an appointment at a “MyChart-enabled” department.
- When you arrive for your appointment, please let the front desk staff know that you’d like to sign up for MyChart.
- Prior to the completion of your appointment, you’ll receive a MyChart Activation Letter which contains important information on how to register for MyChart, including your MyChart Access Code and your OHSU Medical Record Number.

The image shows a screenshot of the MyChart web interface. At the top is a blue box titled "MyChart Log In" with fields for "Username" and "Password", a "Forgot Password or Username?" link, and a "Sign In" button. Below this is a dark blue box titled "New User? Sign Up Now!". At the bottom is a light blue box titled "Learn More..." with links for "How to Sign Up", "Supported Browsers", "Terms and Conditions", and "Privacy Policy".

Neurological Surgery is a MyChart-enabled department.

Neurological Surgery Outreach

Mid-Columbia Neuroscience Clinic

Located in The Dalles, Ore., the Mid-Columbia Neuroscience Clinic provides comprehensive neurosurgical consultation in association with Mid-Columbia Medical Center. **Andrew Nemecek, M.D.**, is available for consultation in The Dalles one day every other week. The clinic provides an important service for rural and outlying areas by giving local health care providers access to specialized neurosurgical services that would otherwise be accessed only by travel to Portland. For more information or scheduling, please call 503 494-4314.

Longview Neurosurgical Clinic

The Longview Neurosurgical Clinic in Longview, Wash., is staffed by **Johnny Delashaw, M.D.** four days per month and provides consultation in general neurosurgery, skull-base tumors, neurovascular disease, and neurooncology. For more information or scheduling, please call the Longview Neurosurgical Clinic at 360 414-1388.

Doernbecher Pediatric Outreach Clinic

The Doernbecher Pediatric Neurosurgery Clinic in Bend, Ore., takes place typically on the second Friday of every other month and is staffed by **Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D.** The clinic has been successful in saving travel time for families living in Deschutes County and parts of Southern Oregon, and who are cared for by the Doernbecher Children’s Hospital pediatric neurosurgery service. The clinic is operated in association with St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. For more information or scheduling, please call 503 494-4314.



Distinguished Alumni Award

The 2008 Neurological Surgery Distinguished Alumni Award - Perry Camp, M.D. and Guy Gehling, M.D., Walla Walla, Wash.

The OHSU Department of Neurological Surgery appreciates there are many distinguished former departmental residents who have made significant achievements in, and contributions to, academic and clinical neurosurgical practice. In recognition of their contribution to the field, the department has created an annual Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2008 recipients are **Perry E. Camp, M.D.** and **Guy F. Gehling, M.D.** They have been practicing neurosurgeons in Walla Walla, Wash. since the early 1980s. Dr. Camp is chairman of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Gehling, chief of staff at St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, Wash. Originally from Pendelton, Oregon, they are graduates of Oregon State University and University of Oregon, respectively, medical doctorate graduates of the University of Oregon Health Science Center (now OHSU) (1974 and 1976, respectively) and graduates of the OHSU neurosurgery resident program, (1979 and 1982, respectively).

In recognition of their contributions to academic and clinical neurosurgical practice and dedication to the neurosurgical care of their local community we look forward to honoring them at the 2008 Gallo Lecture dinner on Saturday, July 12, 2008 (*by invitation*).

Alumni Update - 2007 Chiefs Move On

Warren Roberts, M.D.

Dr. Roberts has accepted a position with Avista Adventist Hospital, a member of Centura Health, Colorado's largest healthcare system. He is currently directing an effort to roll out the Front Range Brain & Spine Institute and working with colleagues on formulating plans to open a spine center early next year.



Matthew Hunt, M.D.

Dr. Hunt is spending a year as a specialist registrar at the Victor Horsley Department of Neurosurgery, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN), Queen Square, London. An University College of London Hospital, the NHNN is a leading centre for the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with a wide range of neurological conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, stroke and head injuries. Dr. Hunt has accepted a neurosurgical faculty position at the University of Minnesota, beginning July 2008.



Events & Announcements

The 2nd Anthony Gallo, Jr. Lecturer: Arnold Menezes, M.D.

Arnold Menezes, M.D. is professor of neurological surgery and vice chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa.

A graduate of the University of Bombay, Bombay, India, he earned his medical degree at University of Bombay, and completed his neurological surgery residency at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 1973.

Dr. Menezes research interests include: the craniovertebral junction, spinal dysraphic states, hydrocephalus, spinal bony compression lesions in children, and cranial base surgery. His clinical expertise includes: Neurosurgery, pediatric neurosurgery, skull base surgery, and cervical spine pathology. He will discuss: *Developmental abnormalities of the craniocervical junction: diagnosis and management*, and *The emergence of a pediatric spinal neurosurgeon*.

Saturday, July 12, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - noon

Vey Conference Center, Doernbecher Children's Hospital, 11th Floor



The 18th Annual John Raaf Day: A. John Popp, M.D.

A. John Popp, M.D., is the Henry and Sally Schaffer Chair of Surgery, head of neurosurgery and co-director of the Neurosciences Institute at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY.

Dr. Popp is president of Hudson/Mohawk Clinical Neurosciences Society. He is a past president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Society of Neurological Surgeons. He has also served as a director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, treasurer of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, president of the New York State Neurological Society, chairman of the New York State Delegation to the Council of State Neurological Societies, and chairman of the Washington Committee for Neurosurgery.

He has served as an advisor for a National Science Foundation study on ethics and experimental design, as a member of the Steering Committee for an AHCPR grant measuring and improving the quality of carotid endarterectomy, and has been the recipient of funding from the NIH for the study of neurogenic lung failure and traumatic injury to the central nervous system. Dr. Popp specializes in the treatment of aneurysms, vascular malformations, and brain tumors. He was recently selected as president-elect of the World Academy of Neurological Surgeons. His term begins in 2009. Further details to follow, the event is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008**.



The 2009 Paxton International Professor - Neil Kitchen M.D. F.R.C.S. (SN)

Unanticipated scheduling conflicts prevented Evandro de Oliveira, M.D., from visiting OHSU as the third Paxton International Professor in April 2008. However, in July 2009, Dr. Kitchen consultant neurosurgeon and associate clinical director, Victor Horsley Department of Neurosurgery, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, University College London Hospital Trust, London, England will visit OHSU. Dr. Kitchen was the neurosurgeon shadowed by Ian McEwan for his book *Saturday*. Further details will follow in 2009.

For more information regarding any of the above events or announcements, please contact Joanie Mastrandrea at 503-494-6207 or mastrandrea@ohsu.edu.

Communication Standards

OHSU and OHSU Medical Group physicians and staff are committed to communicating with referring physicians in a timely and complete manner. We have established standards for dictating and sending out letters and notes in a timely manner, starting our clinics on time, and returning referring physician phone calls the same day. If we are not meeting these standards, please call Physician Liaison Program Manager Denise Askelson Higgins at 503 418-3627.

Visiting Your Practice

Sally Rodgers and Denise Askelson Higgins would be happy to visit your practice and talk with you about your needs, and work with you and your staff to streamline the referral process. We want to make sure that our internal referral processes do not interfere with the efficiencies you deserve to maintain in your practice environment.

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Continuing Medical Education

OHSU sponsors continuing professional development activities for physicians and other health care specialists in a wide variety of clinical areas, with special emphasis on primary care. Programs draw on the clinical and academic strengths of OHSU faculty and are held throughout the year in many different locations and formats. Please visit the OHSU Continuing Medical Education web site for current listings at www.ohsu.edu/som/cme/index.cfm.

Outreach and Rural Health

OHSU helps rural sites recruit health care providers through our work with the Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) and the state's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). The ORH partnered with OHSU in 1989, and ORH is a key component of the university's Center for Rural Health.

The Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN) improves the professional satisfaction of many rural providers, giving them a vital connection to an academic health center.

The Pediatric and Neonatal Transport Team (PANDA) and the Oregon Poison Center provide services used extensively throughout the state.

OHSU has a vision to "make Oregon a leader in health and science innovation for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of all Oregonians." OHSU is fulfilling this vision in exceptional ways and helping make life healthier for many rural Oregonians. We truly are Oregon's academic health center and a unique resource for the entire state. We continue to build on partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders throughout the state and, working together, meet Oregon's growing health care workforce needs. For more information, please visit www.ohsu.edu/outreach.

Celebrating OHSU Employees

Every year OHSU celebrates and honors long-term employees for their dedication and service. This year 669 employees received employment anniversary pins and were recognized for a total of 10,810 years of service. Recipients were congratulated during a recognition ceremony on April 23 in the OHSU Old Library Auditorium and at a reception immediately following. Quality employees are what make OHSU great.

Neurological Surgery Employees' Service to OHSU (110 years)

20 years of service

Debra A. Reeves, R.N., B.S.N., C.N.O.R.
Neurological Surgery Operating Room Team Leader

15 years of service

Valerie C. Anderon, Ph.D. *Director, Clinical Research*
Johnny B. Delashaw, M.D., *Professor and Surgeon*
Melissa E. Martenson, M.S., *Research Associate*
Shirley McCartney, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor and Editor*

10 years of service

Todd Ellingson, *Appointment Administrator*
Jane Olsen, N.P., *Neurosurgical Nurse Practitioner*
Jodi Phillips, *Surgery Scheduler*

New Employee

We are pleased to announce that **David Lenar**, M.Ed., has joined the department as a research assistant in Dr. Anderson's laboratory. David provides application programming support for clinical research studies investigating movement disorders, chronic pain, and Alzheimer's disease. His work includes custom software for the analysis of force transducer output, time series data visualization, least squares curve fitting, and the creation of magnetic resonance (MR) imaging parameter maps. He also coordinates data collection sessions with subjects and assists with institutional review board (IRB) correspondence and compliance.

Department Farewells

Keri Cannon, Ph.D., joined the department in 2005 from Albany Medical College, Albany, NY, and brought new techniques to Dr. Heinricher's laboratory. Specifically, she worked on an important study that has provided new insights into the causes of migraine headache. Dr. Cannon has chosen to spread her wings and try a new venture and has accepted a position as principal scientist in the Department of Safety Pharmacology, Pfizer Inc., Groton, CT. Dr. Cannon will be missed and we wish her well in her new ventures.



Faculty Appointments

Nathan R. Selden, M.D., Ph.D., was appointed to the 10 member Strategic Planning Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), and is to serve as the scientific program chairman of the CNS Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla., Oct., 2008.

Resident Awards

2008 Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) Award

Jason Weinstein, M.D., has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2008 NREF Award. Dr. Weinstein is presently a senior resident (fifth year) and will utilize these funds in his sixth year of residency, which is dedicated to research. His mentor is professor **Edward Neuwelt, M.D.**

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) remains a major source of morbidity and mortality with 1.5 million sustaining TBI each year; of these, 80-90,000 experience long-term disability (source Centers for Disease Control 2001). There are currently no effective pharmacological agents used in clinical practice that reduce brain injury secondary to TBI. This award will allow Dr. Weinstein to pursue advanced research to optimize administration of N-acetylcysteine (NAC), a thiol containing molecule for neuroprotection in an experimental rat TBI model. It will also provide novel insight into the mechanism and prevention of posttraumatic hydrocephalus. If successful, this will lead directly to clinical trials of NAC in human TBI.

Section on Cerebrovascular Surgery of the AANS/CNS

2008 Cerebrovascular Disease Research Award —

Justin Cetas, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Cetas will receive \$15,000 in support of his laboratory research on understanding the influence of the rostral ventromedial medulla (RVM) on autonomic and/or primary afferent regulation of cerebral blood flow, which may lead to new therapeutic interventions for the treatment of acute and perhaps delayed vasospasm in patients with acute subarachnoid hemorrhage.

2008 OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association Resident Paper Award — **Jonathan Carlson, M.D., Ph.D.**

Neural Basis of Pathological Pain After Nerve Injury

2008 Society for Neuroscience Oregon Chapter Resident Paper Award — **Justin Cetas, M.D., Ph.D.**

A Novel Medullary Center for the Control of Cerebral Blood Flow

Three award winning neurological surgery residents presented at The 76th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), www.aans.org.

2007 NREF/Porex Surgical Research Award Presentation —

Justin Cetas, M.D., Ph.D.

Established by the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in 1983, the Research Fellowship provides training for neurosurgeons who are preparing for academic careers as clinician investigators.

Central mechanisms of pain in dural inflammation

2008 William Sweet Award — **Jonathan Carlson, M.D., Ph.D.**

Awarded annually by the AANS/CNS Section on Pain for the best paper presented at the AANS Annual Meeting Pain Section by either a resident or a young neurosurgeon within five years of completion of his or her training.

Unmasking A Novel Brainstem Compensatory Mechanism in Neuropathic Pain

Jonathan D. Carlson, M.D., Ph.D., Jennifer Maire, Mary Heinricher, Ph.D.

Research News

Stem Cells and Central Nervous System Therapeutics

The March/April issue of The Journal of Neurosurgery's free online *Neurosurgical Focus* features Stem Cells and Central Nervous System Therapeutics, <http://thejns.org>.

Topic Editor: **Nathan R. Selden, M.D., Ph.D.**

Co-editors: **Stephen Huhn, M.D.**, and **Daniel Guillaume, M.D.**

1. The first section addresses the biology of embryonic and lineage-specific stem cells.
2. The second section reviews cellular therapy for neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders of the brain and retina, including Parkinson, Huntington, motor neuron, and lysosomal storage diseases. This section is accompanied by a podcast interview with Dr. Ole Isacson in which he covers the current status and promise of cellular therapy for Parkinson disease.
3. The third section addresses stem cell therapy for stroke and epilepsy.
4. The fourth section covers attempts to treat brain and spinal injuries using stem cell transplantation.
5. The fifth section addresses clinical trial design as well as policy and ethical considerations raised by stem cell therapy.
6. The final section concentrates on brain tumor stem cells.



Dr. Selden

New Residents

by **Nathan R. Selden, M.D., Ph.D.**

I am extremely pleased to announce the OHSU neurological surgery matches for 2008.

Brian T. Farrell, M.D., Ph.D. will graduate from University of Nebraska Medicine Center, College of Medicine, Omaha, Neb. in June 2008. Dr. Farrell's doctoral dissertation examined *Mechanistic Insights in CAG-CTG Contractions in Cultured Human and Simian Cells*. His interests include surfing, running, golf, and classical and jazz trumpet.

Nathaniel Whitney, M.D. will graduate from Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif. in June 2008. Dr. Whitney has been involved with charity programs for children and his interests include the outdoors, hiking, canoeing, writing music and working with music groups.

As in previous years, we were fortunate to match some of the finest U.S. medical students interested in neurological surgery. Both candidates were highly sought nationally and it is testament to the exemplary clinical, research and educational opportunities provided by OHSU and neurological surgery that they have selected OHSU for training.



Dr. Farrell



Dr. Whitney

2008 Robert Florin Award — **Zachary Litvack, M.D.**

Awarded by the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies for the best abstract submitted by a Neurosurgeon. Selected on content and methodology relative to socio-economic issues.

Impact of Malpractice Environments on the US Neurosurgical Workforce 2005-2007

Zachary Litvack, M.D., Kim Burchiel, M.D., Mathew Hunt, M.D.



Publications, 2008

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- [2] Guillaume, D.J., Huhn, S.L., Selden, N.R. and Steiner, R.D., Cellular therapy for childhood neurodegenerative disease. Part I: rationale and preclinical studies, *Neurosurgical Focus*, 24 (2008) E22.
- [3] Guillaume, D.J. and Zhang, S.-C., Human embryonic stem cells: a potential source of transplantable neural progenitor cells, *Neurosurgical Focus*, 24 (2008) E3.
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