

Neurosurgery News

The Practice Newsletter for WSU Neurosurgery

December 2009: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Happy
Holidays!!!!



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Just a reminder.....

Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day is January 18th
2010.

Treated as a floating holiday,
you must use these
vacation hours within
two weeks of the date.

For 2010, this means the
holiday can be used from
01.04.10 thru 02.01.10.

Enjoy your time off!!!!



A Goal for 2010: Professionalism



As 2009 ends and quickly turns into 2010, it presents a perfect time for us all to reflect back. By looking back at the past year, we can all find ways we can improve ourselves in the future. Reflection often provides this for us, and be a great tool for self-improvement.

For some of us, these changes may be physical. Or mental. Or emotional. As each one of us is unique, so are the personal challenges we must face. However, in addition to individual changes, it can also be beneficial to look at changes one can make within their groups and associations; our team here at work is one such example. As we shift from a successful 2009 to, hopefully, an even better 2010, it is essential we all reflect on how we can improve our quality of work and team spirit.

The easiest way to do this is to increase our level of professionalism around our offices, surgery suites, and laboratories. But what is professionalism? While it is often in the eye of the beholder, action that is deemed "professional" usually has some common tenants. These would include:

- **Not engaging in inappropriate communication or office "gossip."**
- **Breaching the confidentiality of patients and co-workers.**
- **Showing mutual respect to everyone you work with.**
- **Act with integrity when on the job; take responsibility for your actions.**
- **Respect the rights and boundaries of co-workers.**
- **Present yourself in a professional image when representing the Department.**
- **Try to keep your personal problems out of the workplace.**

By taking the time to try to improve ourselves in some of these areas where we may lack, we can all assure that WSU Neurosurgery has a great 2010. See you then!



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www.med.wayne.edu/neurosurgery

Contacts:

Marie Ferlito: mferlito@med.wayne.edu

Brandon Parker: bjparker@med.wayne.edu



The third-leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and estimated 50,000 people will die from colorectal cancer each year. However, colorectal cancer is preventable through proper screening; everyone should make sure to follow their doctor's recommendations.



Important Medicare Changes

Know what to do on 01.01.10



As the date on the calendar changes from 2009 to 2010, you should be aware that another change is happening right at the very start of the new year.

Effective January 1, 2010 Medicare is eliminating Consultation CPT codes. These codes include inpatient codes 99251-99255, and outpatient codes 99241-99245.

Three G-codes have been created by CMS to assist with this change: G0425, G0426, and G0427. All other consultations will have to be billed using initial care codes:

- **Initial Hospital Care: 99221-99223**
- **Initial Nursing Facility Care: 99304-99306**
- **Initial Office Visit Care: 99201-99205**

We are not sure how this will affect our daily coding practices for several reasons:

- **Other insurers will continue to recognize consult coding and therefore we must continue to use them.**
- **Outpatient coding and dictation have a 1:1 relationship between the various levels of consultation and new/return patient coding.**
- **Inpatient consults do not have a 1:1 relationship between the levels of care.**
- **We must differentiate between admitting physician and other "consulting" physicians for inpatient business.**

For outpatient services we expect a crosswalk will be built within our own billing system. For inpatient services we must wait for additional information from Medicare. We will keep you posted, as more information becomes available.



Zicam Controversy?

Cold Therapy has Potential Side-Effects?

Following behind FDA recommendations in June, a new study published October 29, 2009 in *PlosOne* reports some startling side-effects with Zicam. Zicam, an easily-found cold therapy medication, has been linked to the loss of the sense of smell, and can cause irreparable cell damage in human nasal tissue.

In the *PlosOne* report, researchers report that Zicam was the only therapy out of several nasal spray products that produced cytotoxicity in both mouse and human nasal tissue. Additionally, this damage was linked to a loss of sense of smell in mice; the mice were not able to determine scents after being treated with Zicam.

Furthermore, this damage was seen to be long-lasting, with some subjects not regaining the sense of smell for close to two months. This led to comments from the research team that damage from Zicam could reach a level where the sense of smell could be permanently damaged.

This report follows statements from the FDA, where over 130 people made claims of loss of smell after using Zicam products. In response, the FDA told the maker of Zicam products that, without FDA approval, the future marketing of the products would not be allowed. In the face of these statements, Matrixx Initiatives, the manufacturer of Zicam, instituted a voluntary recall of the noted products on June 24, 2009.

What does this all mean? It's probably the best idea to look at other medications than Zicam for the cold at this time. While there may not end up being any complications or problems associated with Zicam, a path of waiting to see what extensive research and testing finds might be prudent.



The Bean Dip-Off is returning February 2010.

Start planning your winning concoction of bean-filled bliss and spicy satisfaction today...

What's on Your Mind?

A Frightfully Quick Contest Winner and a Shockingly Fun Costume Contest

October saw two contests arrive in the department, and worthy winners were named for both. First, we had the crossword challenge from our last newsletter. A challenging task for most of us, this was not the case for our winner, Danielle Phillips. Completing the puzzle the same day it was sent out, Danielle was certainly on top of her game. She's seen below with her prize, a Halloween pumpkin filled with tasty treats. After enjoying some herself, Danielle was kind enough to share her winnings with the rest of the department. Way to go Danielle!



Our second contest was the annual Halloween costume contest, held on Friday, October 30th. From world travelers to down on their luck pop stars, the spectrum of costumes was truly a sight to see. While enjoying a Halloween banquet, the contestants voted themselves for who they thought had the two best costumes. After multiple rounds of high-intensity voting, two champions finally emerged. These two were Margaret Leahy and Marilyn Rutkowski as a NASCAR mechanic and a bunch of little white lies respectively.

Although these two costumes were deemed to reign supreme over the others, everyone certainly put in a great amount of effort and creativity into their costumes. Here's looking forward to next year, where maybe we'll see you in costume!



Left: Danielle with her Halloween winnings.

Above: The Halloween costume contest contestants.



Brain Food for the Month

Who Delivers the Presents?

United States: Santa Claus

France: Père Noël (Father Christmas)

Hungary: Mikulas (St. Nicholas)

Norway: Julenissen (Christmas Gnome)

Russia: Ded Moroz (Grandfather Frost)

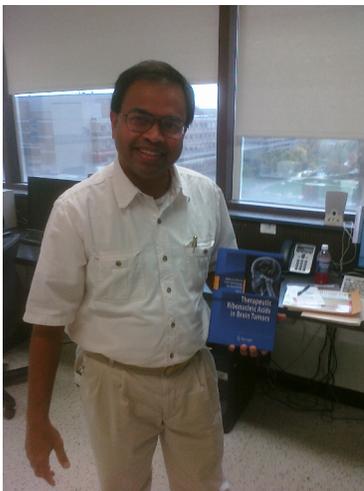
Japan: Hoteiosho (Gift-Bearing God)

Iraq: Vader Kersfees (Father Christmas)

Afghanistan: Baba Chaghaloo (Father Christmas)

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- 12.07.09: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12.12.09-12.19.09: Chanukah
- 12.15.09: Bill of Rights Day
- 12.25.09: Christmas
- 12.26.09-01.01.10: Kwanzaa
- 01.01.10: New Year's Day
- 01.11.10: National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- 01.18.10: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 01.23.10: National Pie Day
- 01.27.10: Holocaust Remembrance Day



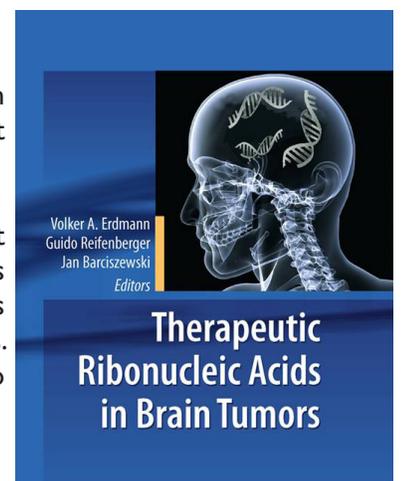
Dr. Mathupala Writes Book Chapter

Dr. Saroj Mathupala, one of our main researchers in neuro-oncology, recently was published in a new text, *Therapeutic Ribonucleic Acids in Brain Tumors*, with Drs. Mittal and Guthikonda as co-authors.

The chapter, titled "RNA Interference-Based Therapies Against Brain Tumors: Potential Clinical Strategies," takes

a look at potential paths in clinical intervention against tumors.

The book was published at the end of August, and has not yet hit the bookshelves of the Wayne State libraries. When it does, make sure to check it out!



On the Brain for December...

Holiday Trivia

Answer these questions correctly for the chance to win a great prize!

1. Everybody knows Santa Claus as St. Nicholas; in what country was the real St. Nicholas likely born?
2. Who is the Hebrew warrior that is commemorated in Chanukah?
3. A feast held on December 31st is one of the high points of Kwanzaa, what is it called?
4. What traditional Chanukah dish is a Jewish version of potato pancakes?
5. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was a clever marketing invention for what major department store?
6. What are the three colors of Kwanzaa?
7. What does *Auld Lang Syne* mean?
8. Who must light Chanukah lights?
9. How many gifts would you receive if you received all the gifts from the song *The 12 Days of Christmas*?
10. What New Year's tradition was started by the ancient Greeks around 600 BC?
11. Who is the creator of Kwanzaa, and what did they do?
12. Name all of Santa's reindeer, please.
13. What does Kwanzaa mean?



The first person to return a copy of this quiz with all the correct answers (or the one with the most correct if no one gets them all right) will win a great holiday prize. So hurry up and find those answers!



**Our annual holiday party is just around the corner!
December 12th is the date, and the festivities start at 7:00 pm.
See Nancy Triggs for more information.**