

Neurosurgery News

The Practice Newsletter for WSU Neurosurgery

January 2011: National Blood Donor Month

The Neurosurgery News is looking for stories about our team members for upcoming issues.

This means you! If you have a unique talent or participate in something unique or different, let us know. We will be sure to feature you soon!

Congratulate Our “Top Docs”

Five of our neurosurgeons take top local honors.

In this issue:

Meet our New and Moving Coworkers

Women of Wayne Grant Recipient from Neurosurgery

Upcoming Dates and Holidays

The Talks and Events Just Keep On Coming!

The Monthly Contest

Please note that surgical scheduling matters are now being managed by Mary Sue Forni.

Any questions or concerns dealing with surgical scheduling should be directed to her at:

mforni@med.wayne.edu

In its annual issue, *Hour Detroit* magazine has recognized five of our neurosurgeons as some of the top in their field in the metro Detroit region in its 11th annual “Top Docs” survey and issue. *Hour* determines these distinctions through tabulating votes from other area doctors. The top vote-getters are then recognized as the “Top Docs” for the year.

Drs. Guthikonda, Eltahawy, and Mittal were recognized by the magazine in the field of adult neurosurgery, while Drs. Ham and Sood gained the same distinction for pediatric neurosurgery. Furthermore, Dr. Sood was the top vote-getter in the pediatric neurosurgery field, truly making him the “best of the best.”

For our neurosurgeons, this is nothing new. Drs. Guthikonda, Eltahawy, Ham, and Sood have all been designated as a “Top Doc” before by *Hour*. However, this is the first time that Dr. Mittal has been recognized by the publication (and his peers) for his work, and will certainly be the first of many distinctions for him in this regard.

While the results have not been posted online at the time of publication for this newsletter, you can still visit *Hour Detroit’s* website through the image below to see them when they appear. You can also find a print copy of the issue now to see the results.

Let’s give a big celebratory cheer for our “Top Docs” and let’s look forward to later in 2011, when the list is sure to be full of our doctors once again.

Congrats Docs!



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www.neurosurgery.med.wayne.edu

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January is National Blood Donor Month. Take a second and see if you make time to donate at one of the blood drives in the area this month. Check out the list by clicking below:

[Upcoming Blood Drives Around the DMC](#)

Get to Know Our New and Moving Neurosurgery Employees!

In the last few months, there have been some new additions to our staff in various areas, and we wanted to give everyone a chance to meet them and find out what they will be doing in the department. So, without any further ado, here we go!

In our billing and coding area, we have two new additions, **Gigi Bond** and **Amy King**. Gigi is a billing assistant and Amy works with both billing and coding. Gigi has experience in our Clinton Township offices previously, and can be found at our UHC offices. Amy can be found both in our UHC offices and in our St. Mary's clinic on Fridays.

Also joining our administrative staff ranks is **Jenna Vagnetti**. Located at our Clinton Township office, Jenna deals with surgical boarding for our department. She will primarily be dealing with cases for Drs. Mazhari and Hornyak.

Another new addition to our department is **Will Pierce**. Will joins our clinic staff as a medical assistant, where he will assist in the day-to-day matters of our clinic and patient interaction. While primarily the MA for our Clinton Township office and our St. Mary's clinic on Fridays, Will can also be found in our HPOB clinic and also in our administrative offices from time to time.

Someone making a move in our department is **Angela Ransom**. Formerly a floor nurse for the department, Angela is seeing patients for Dr. Jagannathan and Dr. El-

ahawy at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, and also patients of Dr. Jagannathan in all other locations.

Cheryl York is another nurse practitioner that is working in some of our new offices. Cheryl is now assisting with seeing patients for Dr. Mazhari and Dr. Hornyak at our Clinton Township offices.

Finally, **Marilyn Rutkowski** has made a move from our HPOB offices to our UHC offices. There, she is responsible for appointment scheduling and telephone triage duties.



Gigi Bond and Amy King, two of the newer faces around the department, work with billing and coding.

So now you know who's who and where all the new additions and moving co-workers will be. If you see any of these new or moving faces around, be sure to say hello!

Brain Food for the Month

The Snowiest Cities in the United States

We may think that our yearly average of 41.1 inches of snow here in Detroit is a lot, more so when we are stuck on a highway at 6:45 pm, moving at a blistering 4 mph.

However, there are many more cities and areas in the country that receive much more snow. The five most snow-filled areas in the country are:

1. Valdez, Alaska: 326.0 inches per year
2. Blue Canyon, California: 240.3 inches per year
3. Yakutat, Alaska: 195.3 inches per year
4. Marquette, Michigan: 141.0 inches per year
5. Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan: 117.4 inches per year

What's on Your Mind?

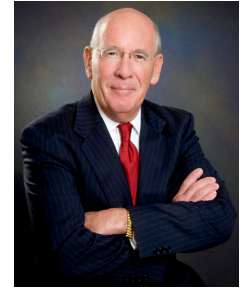
Recent and Upcoming Department Talks

There are a number of department events that have recently transpired or are in the near future that you should know about.

These include:

- Research Grand Rounds, which featured a talk by Kevin Wang, PhD from Banyan Biomarkers, Inc. on September 29, 2010. His talk was titled *Traumatic Brain Injury Biomarkers: From Benchside to Bedside*.
- Our Gurdjian-Thomas Visiting Professor Lecture Series, which featured Peter Black, MD was on October 12, 2010 at the Troy Marriott. The title of Dr. Black's talk was *Personalized Neurosurgery for Brain Tumors*.
- Speaking of the Gurdjian-Thomas series, our most recent talk was on January 18, 2011. Gail Rosseau, MD, FACS, FAANS, presented *The Concussion "Epidemic" and Neurosurgery*.

All three of these events were regarded as interesting and beneficial by attendees. For more information on any of these talks or upcoming events, contact Nancy Triggs.



(above left) Dr. Kevin Wang, who spoke at **Research Grand Rounds** on September 29th, 2010.

(above right) Dr. Peter Black, who spoke at our **Gurdjian-Thomas Visiting Professor Lecture** on October 12th, 2010.



(left) Dr. Gail Rosseau, our most recent **Gurdjian-Thomas Visiting Professor**. She spoke on January 18, 2011.

Did you know?

Our students and faculty at the Wayne State University School of Medicine rank among the best in the country.

On the most recent United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1, 93 percent of Wayne State students passed on their first attempt. That is above the national average of 92 percent.

On the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge, a very impressive 97 percent of students passed on their first attempt, which is at the national average.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- 01.28.11: Remembrance of the Space Shuttle Challenger Explosion
- 02.01.11: National Freedom Day
- 02.02.11: Groundhog Day
- 02.02.11: Candlemas
- 02.03.11: Chinese New Year (Year of the Rabbit)
- 02.06.11: Super Bowl Sunday
- 02.08.11: Boy Scout Day
- 02.14.11: Valentine's Day
- 02.21.11: President's Day

Jennifer Lowing Receives Women of Wayne Research Grant

Our department is often recognized for its clinical excellence as a group. However, sometime individual honors are also bestowed upon some of our coworkers, and when this occurs, it is time to congratulate the worthy individual. This time around, we look to the research component of the department.

In this instance, we would like to congratulate one of our research assistants, Jennifer Lowing, for her selection as a recipient of a Women of Wayne Research Grant awardee. This grant will go towards her work on a research project

titled *Juvenile Traumatic Brain Injury Impact on Depression and Anxiety-Like Behavior in the Adult Mouse*.



Jennifer at work in Dr. Conti's lab.

Please congratulate Jennifer on this distinction the next time you see her. And let's also hope this is only one of many distinctions that our employees will have now and in the future.

Have you become a fan of the Department's Facebook page yet? If not, do so here:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Detroit-MI/Wayne-State-University-Neurosurgery/370816994525>

On the Brain for January

An Academic Sort of Contest

Could You Pass Political Science 101?

The following questions are straight from the first test Brandon gave in his Political Science 101 class at Wayne County Community College District. See if you would fare in his class.

1. **Of the many different ways of ordering relations between central governments and local units, the most common method in the world today is the:**
 - a. unitary system
 - b. confederate system
 - c. federal system
 - d. bicameral system
 - e. none of the above

2. **The first national income tax was passed to:**
 - a. pay for the huge debt caused by the Civil War.
 - b. limit the power of state governments in the area of taxation.
 - c. increase the power of Congress.
 - d. help the nation out of the Great Depression.
 - e. make slavery uneconomical.

3. **A democratic republic is:**
 - a. liberal.
 - b. a direct democracy.
 - c. impossible.
 - d. a republic in which the people elect representatives to make laws.
 - e. a republic in which everyone can vote.

4. **The Bill of Rights provided for:**
 - a. the protection of individual liberties from state governments.
 - b. the protection of individual liberties from the national government.
 - c. equal protection under the law.
 - d. protection against state infringements on the freedoms of conscience, the press, and jury trial.
 - e. both b and d.

Short Answer:

**What are the main differences between dual and cooperative federalisms?
Please provide an example that illustrates both systems.**



**Our Previous Contest Winner
Dave Thompson**

*To read Dave's winning entry,
click on his photo.*

The person with the most correct answers (as deemed by Professor Parker) will be declared the winner. Any documented attempts to complete this contest with the aid of Google, the Internet, or peeking at your classmate's paper will result in disqualification.

Good Luck!