Message from the Chairman

Neurosurgery residents and our training program are the lifeblood of the neurosurgery department. I am proud to be involved in the training of such an outstanding group of young women and men. These 14 unique individuals share a common passion for neurosurgery, enormous dedication to the program and a wonderful camaraderie. This edition of the neurosurgery newsletter highlights our residents and some of their accomplishments.

Joshua B. Bederson, MD
Professor and Chairman

In the daily grind, with neurosurgery taking the focus, it is easy for the personal histories to get sidelined. This newsletter allows us to bring the “individual” back to the forefront. I hope that writing these vignettes allows the residents to relive their initial excitement with neurosurgery and Mount Sinai while relishing their achievements. Their stories are truly a testament for why we choose to work in academic neurosurgery and to teach this great art. We should be very proud of what is being accomplished here in the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai.

Aman B. Patel, MD
Associate Professor

The Residency

Hail to the Chiefs

Ronit Gilad, MD
At Princeton University, I majored in Molecular Biology, minored in Engineering Biology, and also continued to pursue my lifelong interest in the violin. There was no one in my family who was in the medical field, and I landed in New York University Medical School without any knowledge of what specialty I would enter. As part of a routine surgical rotation, one particular neurosurgeon invited me into his operating room and introduced me to the field. I watched a pineal tumor resection in a child for the first time. I remember being mesmerized by the experience and deciding that I could not see myself doing anything else. I chose Mount Sinai for a number of reasons. First, I found that the attendings at Mount Sinai reminded me of that neurosurgeon who introduced me to neurosurgery in the first place, and working with them brings me the same excitement I felt when I first saw that pineal tumor resection. Second, the attendings at Mount Sinai reminded me of that neurosurgeon who introduced me to neurosurgery in the first place, and working with them brings me the same excitement I felt when I first saw that pineal tumor resection. Second, the attendings at Mount Sinai come from a variety of educational backgrounds, and as residents, we reap the benefits of these different backgrounds and ways of accomplishing tasks, so that one day we come up with our own ways of getting things done. I was involved in several basic science research projects in college and medical school, including the role of FRS2 and Sprouty on FGF signaling, which are important proteins in the replication of continued on page 2

Arien Smith, MD
I attended the University of Rochester, double-majoring in Biology and Spanish, and then spent four years at the Yale School of Medicine. I initially wanted to go into internal medicine but became interested in neurosurgery while working on a summer research project with Dr. Hal Blumenfeld, investigating the time course of cerebral blood flow during seizures induced by electroconvulsive therapy. As part of my experience, I attended weekly epilepsy conferences where I was introduced to the Chairman of Neurosurgery, Dr. Dennis Spencer, who specializes in epilepsy surgery. I was allowed to observe many of the surgical procedures for epilepsy, and I began to attend many of the general neurosurgery conferences. In 2000, while at Yale, I received a year-long Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellowship working in the laboratory of Dr. Robert G. Shulman on a project titled “The neurophysiologic basis of functional MRI,” which definitively uncovered a direct relationship between the blood oxygen level-dependent (BOLD) signal of fMRI, neuronal activity and cerebral energy metabolism. My final decision to go into neurosurgery came during my third year after doing a four week rotation on the service. Although I had rotated through other services, many of which I found to be extremely interesting, there was none that I felt was as intellectually continued on page 2
Ronit Gilad, MD
continued from page 1

Glial tumor cells. Most recently, however, I have been involved in the Cere-120 project, a genetically engineered Adeno-Associated Virus Serotype (AAV2) - based vector for striatal delivery of human neurturin in patients with Parkinson's disease. At Mount Sinai, there are many opportunities to be involved in such projects, both on the basic science and clinical front; these opportunities have grown in the past few years and are continuing to grow. Next year, my husband Brian Susi, a fellow in Cardiology at Long Island Jewish Hospital, and I will begin serving four years in the United States Navy in return for the scholarships we received for medical school. Afterwards, although not specifically planned, I intend to pursue further research in an academic setting.

The Mount Sinai Community of Nurses selected Dr. Gilad as House Officer of the Year for 2005, and presented the award in April 2006 at the 19th annual Physicians of the Year Awards ceremony.

Arien Smith, MD
continued from page 1

and physically challenging as neurosurgery. It embodied both my fascination with the central nervous system and my desire to intervene, if appropriate. I graduated from Yale in 2003 after having successfully matched in the Mount Sinai neurosurgical residency program. While all of neurosurgery was new and intriguing to me during my early years, I developed a special interest in spine surgery. Other interests include trauma neurosurgery. During my fourth year I worked on a project titled “The Effect of Alcohol and Aspirin on Worsening Intracranial Hemorrhage,” which I presented at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons national meeting in April 2007 and for which I received the Novo-Nordisk Resident Research Award in Neurotrauma and Critical Care.

In July 2009 I will begin a one-year fellowship at the Spine Institute of New York at Beth Israel Medical Center.

Scott Meyer, MD


“I was drawn to neurosurgery because it was challenging and provided the opportunity to help people with a diverse range of disease processes. I chose Mount Sinai because I felt that I would receive excellent training. I have come to love Mount Sinai because of my fellow residents who make going to war every day an oddly enjoyable and certainly memorable experience. I have certainly laughed more than I ever imagined I would during a neurosurgical residency.

You spend more time with your fellow residents than your family, and I quite honestly could not ask for a better group of people to spend this time of my life with.”

Scott’s research interests include minimally invasive approaches to spinal disorders including trauma, tumors, degenerative disease, and deformity. He is interested in outcomes following spinal surgery and minimizing post-operative pain. Additionally, he is interested in the application of advanced imaging in the evaluation of cervical spondylotic myelopathy. Scott is involved in an IRB approved project to evaluate robot-assisted approaches to the craniocervical junction and skull base.

One faculty member says, “Scott’s leadership is evident in the residency program. He organizes applicant dinners, arranges department events, captains our baseball team and brings a tremendous sense of camaraderie and spirit to our department.” He has been selected as a “physician leader” to serve on a PGY 5 Year

Scott Meyer, MD

The summer after my freshman year of medical school, I volunteered at the largest public hospital in Honduras where I saw a particularly memorable patient who sustained a depressed skull fracture from a machete blow. He underwent emergent craniotomy and survived. I was hooked on neurosurgery from the first time I saw an open craniotomy. I realized then and there that neurological surgery required strict attention to detail and technical excellence. It is the combination of the technical challenges with the reward in a successful operation that has drawn and maintained my love for the specialty.

After interviewing at many places for residency, I arrived in New York to interview at Mount Sinai. I have to admit, the “Big Apple” is an intimidating place for an outsider (University of Georgia, Medical College of Georgia) – but all the more exciting and intriguing. It became even more exciting when I met my wife Puneet, now a fellow in Neurology at Cornell. There was no doubt that Mount Sinai was for me. The program is very well-rounded and has cutting edge technology that keeps it on track with the ever so fast evolving technology. The types of pathology that a resident encounters and operates on are astounding. True to my initial instincts, the program has not let me down. I continue to be delighted by the case variety and innovative surgical procedures that we perform.

My past research has included using advanced MRI techniques to predict primary CNS tumor grading, the effect of alcohol and aspirin consumption on worsening intracranial hemorrhage after acute head injury, and clinical investigation of sports related pediatric head trauma.

Harshpal Singh, MD

The summer after my freshman year of medical school, I volunteered at the largest public hospital in Honduras where I saw a particularly memorable patient who sustained a depressed skull fracture from a machete blow. He underwent emergent craniotomy and survived. I was hooked on neurosurgery from the first time I saw an open craniotomy. I realized then and there that neurological surgery required strict attention to detail and technical excellence. It is the combination of the technical challenges with the reward in a successful operation that has drawn and maintained my love for the specialty.

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Scott Meyer, MD
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Scott married his wife Alison in June 2004; they came to New York together when he started his residency. Alison works at Morgan Stanley and is studying at night for an MBA. He and Alison are both runners and have trained together for triathlons and marathons. Scott firmly believes that physical health is an important contributor to maintaining good mental health. He has always enjoyed sports, playing ice hockey in college, golf and baseball and exercising consistently during medical school. He still tries to find time for golf.

Scott has accepted a 2010-2011 spine fellowship at UCSF to further his training. He plans on a career in academic spine surgery.

Harshpal Singh, MD
continued from page 2

As an aspiring spinal neurosurgeon, I have developed a research interest in spinal disease. I am currently investigating minimally invasive tumor decompression for spinal metastases. I have also been working on investigating degenerative cervical spine disease after fusion. My additional projects include biomechanical stability of a novel fusion construct, minimally invasive fusion techniques, and minimally invasive approaches to the high anterior cervical spine.

I hope to foster my interest in minimally invasive spine surgery and become part of the foundation from which future spine disease will be treated. We have already seen how extensive surgery can be performed from minimalist approaches. As technology continues to improve, we will see amazing ways to treat disease.

Abilash Haridas, MD

Living overseas for over half my life has provided me with a versatile outlook on much of my academic endeavors and has helped shape my future goals.

Born in India, my family migrated to Philadelphia when I was one. We soon moved to Qatar where I attended middle school, but returned to Philadelphia because of the Gulf War in 1991. I then attended high school in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, with engineering in mind early on. The decision to enter medical school was easy especially since my older brother was there to advise me. During medical school I had the opportunity to work with Dr. U. S. Srinivasan, a neurosurgeon who left an everlasting impression on me. When I pursued my General Surgery at Brooklyn Hospital Center in New York, my interests initially were plastic and pediatric surgery, but I realized how much I missed neurosurgery; the young, energetic chief of neurosurgery at Brooklyn rekindled the initial passion I had for the field. Thus, I made the decision to switch fields and enter Neurosurgery in 2005, becoming a pre-residency fellow in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. I joined the program at Mount Sinai in 2007.

My interests are in neuroanatomy, especially developmental malformations, functional neurosurgery, and craniofacial anomalies. I have had the opportunity to spend my research in functional neurosurgery with Dr. Ron Alterman and will be presenting “Long-term outcomes of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) in the pediatric population” at the upcoming 2008 AANS Pediatric Neurosurgery Meeting. My current research plans include studying the anatomical targeting data of DBS to better understand the somatotopic organization of the globus pallidus. I will also be assisting Dr. Alterman next year for the “Ceregene Gene Therapy for Alzheimer’s,” which is a multicenter trial involving Mount Sinai.

As for the future, I plan to enter a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship and stay close to academics. Apart from work, I enjoy guitar, reading, and spending time with my beautiful wife Manju, who is expecting a baby soon. She is an Infectious Disease Fellow at SUNY Downstate University. Traveling has also been a passion of mine, and I hope to contribute my services to developing nations in the future.

Emanuela Binello, MD, PhD, ScD

I attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and simultaneously obtained two undergraduate degrees: one was in Nuclear Engineering, with emphasis on biomedical applications of radiation, and the other was in Russian Studies. I stayed at MIT and pursued doctoral study in Nuclear Engineering. My research was aimed at the development of a radiosurgical treatment based on boron neutron capture, entailing boron uptake

Erin Biro, MD

“What? Neurosurgery? Are you crazy?!” I’ve heard this question or similar queries numerous times over the past several years. My response? Am I passionate? Definitely. Am I compelled? Absolutely. Am I ready for the challenge? Without a doubt. But am I crazy? Not a chance! This was the opening line of my personal statement during my neurosurgery match nearly three years ago, and these sentiments still hold
and neutron beam design. As part of the Harvard-MIT combined program, I pursued medicine and immunology. My second doctoral thesis was in basic science, examining the immunomodulatory effects of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor agonists in a murine model of transplant rejection. During this time, I also served on the graduate admissions committee. To broaden my academic medical experience, I was a clinical teaching assistant for five years, receiving an award for excellence in teaching, and the clinical study coordinator of a randomized placebo-controlled trial for three years. I began considering neurosurgery as a career choice late in my third year of medical school. The clinical practice of neurosurgery captivated me, and I saw an opportunity to integrate my research background in both radiation and immunology to further the field in the area of tumors. I plan to pursue a career in academic Neurosurgery, with an emphasis on neurological oncology.

Mount Sinai is an ideal place for me to pursue my goal. It not only has a strong tumor program, but it also provides role models for women in neurosurgery.

My outside interests lie in the performing arts and stem from my previous participation in a wide variety of them, including piano, violin, voice, ballet and modern dance. New York is an ideal place to cultivate these interests.

Kenneth De Los Reyes, MD

While a senior at Regis High School in New York, Kenneth De Los Reyes, had early exposure to neurosurgery in a high school internship at St. John’s Queens Hospital. He was accepted to and attended the competitive Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in 1999. While completing a B.S. in Biomedicine at the City College of New York with a minor in Classical Studies, he worked in an immunology laboratory studying the relationship between lupus and viruses. He attended the NYU School of Medicine and graduated with a medical degree in 2006.

“I discovered neurosurgery as a senior in high school during an internship and observeship at St. John’s Queens Hospital neurosurgery service for three months. My fascination for neuroanatomy only grew with the neurosurgery rotation as a third year medical student at NYU. Neurosurgery combined my love for neuroanatomy and tactile skills required in surgery.”

Dr. De Los Reyes graduated summa cum laude from City College and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His accomplishments include the Eagle Scout honor, the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts, where he has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor. He has earned a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He was most recently awarded with an Applause-O-Gram by the staff at Mount Sinai for excellence and dedication to patient care.

As a resident at Mount Sinai, I have appreciated the operative...continuation continues on page 5

Erin Biro, MD

strong today.

When I decided late in medical school that my career path would lead me to neurosurgery, my parents questioned my choice: would I be able to handle the long hours? The stress? The commitment of such a long residency program? They supported me nonetheless, because they came to see that for me, the decision was straightforward – there was simply nothing that I wanted to do more than neurosurgery.

The decision to choose Mount Sinai Neurosurgery was also easy. Throughout the entire interview process, there was no other residency program where I felt nearly as much at home as I did when I interviewed at Mount Sinai. The residents were welcoming, the cases abundant and appealing, and what greater city was there than New York City?!

While I am not yet sure where my future endeavors in neurosurgery will lead me, I do know that our program has given me ample opportunity to explore all aspects and sub-specialties of neurosurgery from complex spine, to skull base and vascular surgery, to endovascular neurosurgery, with plenty of the “bread and butter” neurosurgery cases in between.

When I’m not at the hospital, I spend my time enjoying books, wine, travel, skiing, and of course spending time with my two yellow labs: yes, it is possible to have dogs both in a small New York City apartment and as a neurosurgery resident!

Zachariah George, MD

I’ve always been interested in neurological disorders, and was attracted to neurology and psychiatry at an early age. However, two incidents in tenth grade sparked an interest in neurosurgery, which lasted all throughout medical school. First, I read a TIME article on Dr. Keith Black and his experience with complex brain tumors. Then in a psychology class, we learned about a patient with intractable seizures and different forms of memory. We watched a video about a patient with a movement disorder and how the neurosurgeon performed a craniotomy while the patient was awake. All this fascinated me, opened up a whole new world of reading, and convinced me that I wanted to become a neurological surgeon.

While in medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University, I was involved in research throughout my four years. I worked in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Meguid, who mentored me and got me involved in several research projects. The one project that bore the most fruit was developing a surgical rat model to study obesity. I helped develop the model, and that work has since been published. Then we went on to study the neurohormonal changes in the hypothalamus associated with obesity using our model, and that work was also published. As a resident, I have been involved with projects that look at the role of minimally invasive spinal tumor decompression and novel spine fixation constructs. We recently submitted an abstract to the joint section from our series of minimally invasive tumor decompressions.
experience afforded us early in our training. The neurosurgical education program under Dr. Winn is invaluable and truly makes the Mount Sinai program special. The Elmhurst Hospital rotation is unique and provides us with an environment that fosters exponential learning with independence in the operating room and our management of patient care.”

Dr. De Los Reyes is interested in skull base surgery and brain tumors but has not committed to any specialty yet. He plans to enroll in the Masters of Clinical Science Research in 2009. His interests include ballroom dancing, rock climbing and cooking.

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**Kenneth De Los Reyes, MD**

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**PGY 2 Year**

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**Yakov Gologorsky, MD**

The steps that have brought me to the realization that I would like to become a neurosurgeon share a common thread; namely, that throughout my life I have sought to challenge myself, and fervently wish to continue to do so in one of the most intellectually stimulating and exponentially evolving medical fields. The challenges of neurological surgery, while attractive, were only the beginning of the allure. From a technical vantage, I find that the inherent demands of precision and caution required in the practice of neurosurgery make the practice of this delicate field of medicine utterly appealing. From the classic perspective of the physician as “trusted healer,” and because a patient must make such a leap of faith, must repose so much trust in his or her neurosurgeon, I aspire to become worthy of such trust. In a romantic sense, the recognition of the brain as an organ, the curiosity that stems from its complexity, and the mystique of identifying pathologies and correcting them within this remarkably complex organ, is enthralling. At the same time, bench and clinical scientists may see in neurological surgery the crossroads between basic science research and its translation into clinical medicine. That these two will necessarily collaborate, and may indeed be the same person, makes the point so much more salient.

My neurosurgical research interests began in college where I joined the Orthopedic Biomechanics Laboratory at Harvard Medical School. In medical school at the University of Pittsburgh I

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**Soriaya Motivala, MD**

Growing up, I never would have imagined that I would one day become a neurosurgeon. In fact, much of my childhood was spent in the pursuit of becoming a world famous ballerina. At the age of sixteen, it dawned on me that my enthusiasm and diligence for ballet far eclipsed my actual talent though my love of dancing continues to this day; I decided to pursue a much more academic career. While at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, completing a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy and Cell Biology in hopes of becoming a physician, I had the good fortune of taking a neuroscience course. It was then that my passion for the human nervous system began to form. It was also at this time that I was first able to delve into the world of academic research through my work in a cell biology lab with mouse models deficient in Huntington Interacting Protein 1 as part of a group looking into the mechanism of Huntington’s disease. After graduating with great distinction I was able to continue my education at Indiana University School of Medicine where I became enamored with the world of neurosurgery thanks to the mentoring I received from the faculty and the residents in the department. From them I was able to see how I could combine my interest in neuroscience with my passion for helping others in a way that was maximally enriching for me. I was also further able to develop my interest in basic science research by working with a team of scientists exploring neurodifferentiation of embryonic stem

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**Fedor Panov, MD**

During my childhood, I lived and traveled extensively in the former Soviet Union, lived in Hungary for six months, immigrated to central Pennsylvania at the age of 13. I finished high school in a small coal region town and attended Schreyers Honors College at Penn State University for my undergraduate degree. At that time I noticed in myself an inclination toward humanities and medical sciences and finished with a pre-medicine major and a philosophy minor. I studied medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. Until my third year of medical school I was very much convinced that my future would include a family medicine residency in an impoverished area of the United States and involvement in programs like Doctors without Borders.

My first rotation during the clinical years was a surgical subspecialty: Neurosurgery. I was one of the lucky ones who realized after one week that no other career in medicine would be equal to this field. After discussing this fact with my family and friends and receiving their blessings, I began the difficult application process which included externships and research in the field of endovascular treatment of aneurysms at the Jefferson Hospital for Neurosciences. One of my externships was at Mount Sinai where I was immediately attracted to the quality of the residents and the attendings. The dedicated neurosurgical unit and the operating rooms together with the call and resident rooms became my home for the month, and I was able to learn a great

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**Mount Sinai has been a terrific place to train. There are a wide variety of cases and an extremely busy operating schedule. Another thing I enjoy is having our own OR space that is also proximal to our ICU and offices.**

I look forward to finishing my training and completing a fellowship.

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focused on vascular and endovascular neurosurgical research, and as a resident, I have continued in this vein, but have also become involved in several functional and critical care projects.

I came to Sinai to learn from leaders in neurosurgery, at a program that welcomes questioning while it advocates and nurtures a community that seeks to advance the knowledge base and practice of neurosurgery. That this program happens to be in one of the nicest areas of NYC, a city with unparalleled attractions and opportunities, is an added bonus!

Yakov (Jake) Gologorsky, MD

As an undergraduate at University California Berkeley, I majored in Psychology as well as Molecular and Cell Biology, with an emphasis in Neurobiology. I am broadly interested in research involving the interface between molecular neuronal functioning and its clinical correlates. In medical school at UC San Diego, I began doing research using microdialysis to intra-operatively look at neurotransmitter changes in awake patients undergoing anterior temporal lobectomies during a memory task. After medical school, I was able to do a one-year research fellowship at Harvard Medical School/ b fh at Ed fo u d a d, MD, Director of Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery at MGH, studying the role of the globus pallidus in the inhibition of motor programs using microelectrodes in a primate model.

I was born in Israel, and moved to California at an early age. I enjoy traveling, and have been fortunate to live and study abroad in both France and Spain. Other interests outside of medicine include food criticism, live music, and modern art. While in medical school, I was Editor-in-Chief of UCSD’s Art and Literary Magazine as well as a food critic for the San Diego Community Newspaper Group.

I have been privileged to join a great group of residents and attendings at Mount Sinai Neurosurgery. New York has been an extraordinary place to live, with unparalleled culture and variety. While at Mount Sinai, I intend to continue my research in the brain/behavior interface using electrophysiology to study brain function in patients undergoing DBS.

Soriaya Motivala, MD

cells. After graduating Alpha Omega Alpha, I moved to New York City to pursue neurosurgery residency here at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Now at the beginning of my PGY-2 year, I can honestly say that there is no other program and no other city where I would rather be spending the next six years. The educational opportunities and collegiality in the department make this the perfect environment in which to develop one’s fund of knowledge and skill set. Having New York as the backdrop only adds to the global experience.

Fedor (Ted) Panov, MD

deal from my superiors. Starting in July 2007 I was lucky to be able to continue my education at this institution as a resident. My academic interests in the future will include functional neurosurgery. I am very excited to discover this field as its scope expands, and a whole new host of disorders and ailments are shown to be amenable to its procedures.

The Neurosurgical Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital will offer any applicant a challenging and yet rewarding experience. The great intradepartmental interactions combined with a qualified support staff, while being in the heart of Manhattan, make this residency program a great choice for a future neurosurgeon.

Madhu Jannapureddy, MD

Although a palm reader in India predicted that I’d be a successful lawyer, from an early age my academic interests gravitated towards the fields of science. At Johns Hopkins, where I received a BS in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Electrical Engineering, I spent a significant amount of time helping to research the effects of a microgravity environment on the cardiovascular system. Later, in medical school at Baylor in Houston, Texas, I conducted outcomes based research examining cancer operations in the elderly. Having had the opportunity to observe many operations while in college, I began medical school interested in surgery. As I rotated through the different specialties, neurosurgery presented itself as the most intellectually stimulating and interesting field. Also, the advanced equipment employed during operations I observed appealed to my engineering background and love for technology. (I hope to utilize my passion for technology and my engineering background to develop new tools, techniques, and ideas that will aide in the growth of neurosurgical practice.) After rotating and interviewing at many different institutions, I decided that Mount Sinai was the best fit for me. Its location in THE major metropolitan center ensured not only a diverse array of cases and referrals, but also appealed to my desire to live in a large, diverse city.

My first few months at Mount Sinai have been both extremely educational and very fun. I look forward to spending the next seven years learning from both the experienced mentors and my colleagues.

The capacity of man himself is only revealed when, under stress and responsibility, he breaks through his educational shell, and he may then be a splendid surprise to himself no less than to his teachers.” Harvey Cushing
Residents’ Recent Publications and Presentations

**Publications**


**Gologorsky Y, Meyer SA.** Patel AB, Bederson JB. Novel surgical treatment of transverse-sigmoid sinus aneurysm presenting as pulsatile tinnitus, accepted for publication in *Neurosurgery*

Singh H, **Meyer SA.** Hecht AC, Jenkins AL, III. Novel fluoroscopic technique for localization at cervicothoracic levels, accepted for publication in *Journal of Spinal Disorders and Techniques*


Abstracts and Presentations


Residents’ Current Research Interests

Zachariah George, MD
- Role of minimally invasive decompressions for spinal metastasis
- Novel spine constructs for stabilization
- Role of intraoperative vertebroplasty as a delivery mechanism for brachytherapy and chemotherapy in spinal metastasis.

Jake Gologorsky, MD
- The use of TEG (thromboelastography) technology in the management of intracerebral hemorrhage
- The effects of traversing the ventricle on a patient’s mental status in deep brain stimulation
- The use of the spoiled gradient recalled (SPGR) acquisition protocol in localizing the subthalamic nucleus in Parkinson’s patients
- Incidence of deep venous thrombosis in neurosurgical patients: time of onset, injury type, prophylactic treatment used
- Adjacent level disease after anterior cervical discectomy and fusion

Abilash Haridas, MD
- Pediatric deep brain stimulation of the globus pallidus for dystonia
- Localization of deep brain stimulation leads in the globus pallidus to identify somatotopic organization
- Radiographic analysis of the basal ganglia in dystonia

Scott Meyer, MD
- Use of robot-assisted surgery of the skull base
- Minimally invasive surgical treatment of spinal tumors
- Minimally invasive TLIF approaches and fusion techniques
- Adjacent level spondylotic disease after anterior cervical discectomy/corpectomy and fusion
- Diffusion weighted imaging metrics in the evaluation of spinal cord tumors and cervical spondylosis
**Soriya Motivala, MD**
- Incidence of deep venous thrombosis in neurosurgical patients: time of onset, injury type, prophylactic treatment used
- Adjacent level disease after anterior cervical disectomy and fusion

**Harshpal Singh, MD**
- Incidence of adjacent level disease after cervical spine fusion
- Biomechanical stability of novel fusion construct
- Novel unilateral minimally invasive technique for bilateral fusion in the lumbosacral spine
- Clinical outcomes from minimally invasive tumor surgery for metastatic epidural cord compression
- Advanced MRI imaging techniques and its utility in analysis and prediction of tumor grading

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**Sidney A. Hollin, MD, Endowed Lecture**

On October 22, Dr. Aman Patel presented the Sidney A. Hollin, MD, Endowed Lecture, *Brain AVMs: Endovascular Nidal Occlusion and Paradigm Shift in Multi-Modality Treatment*. The Hollin lecture focused on new techniques of AVM embolization that now enable occlusion of greater portions of AVM nidus. Dr. Patel explained that this has primarily come about because of the advent of Onyx, an ethylene vinyl alcohol liquid embolic agent, which allows us to fill the nidus of an AVM in a slow controlled fashion. The ability to accomplish this has led to a paradigm change in the treatment of AVMS. We now are able to completely occlude some AVMs with embolization. We are also able to make AVMs safer for surgical resection or amenable to radiosurgical treatment.
News from Former Residents

Harlan Bruner, MD, (2008), is doing a Spine Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He and his wife Kathleen are enjoying Wisconsin immensely, and now have a third member of the family to share their enjoyment, having welcomed Harper Rose into the world on October 28. They are weighing job offers to decide where to settle next year.

Paul Saphier, MD, (2007), is in the second year of an endovascular fellowship at UCLA. He finishes in June and is in the process of looking for jobs. Ideally, he’d like to live in New York City by his family, and is seeing what’s out there!

Harel Deutch, MD, (2002), is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, and Co-Director of the Rush Spine Center.

After residency, David Chang, MD, (2001), practiced in Columbus, Mississippi, for four years. Then he moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he covered spine trauma for a level 1 trauma center for two years. He is now practicing in Duluth, Minnesota.

Naresh Patel, MD, (2000), is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, where he is the Co-Director of the Stereotactic Radiosurgery Program. Dr. Patel and his wife Sangeeta have two young sons. Besides working at the Mayo Clinic, living in Arizona near Sangeeta’s parents and sister’s family makes that location doubly attractive!

Dr. Michael Groff (1999) is Chief of the Neurosurgical Spine Service at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Dr. Michael Brisman (1998) is part of a large private practice neurosurgery group on Long Island that has offices in Great Neck and Rockville Centre, New York. He specializes in stereotactic surgery and radiosurgery for trigeminal neuralgia and brain tumors. Chief of Neurosurgery and Co-Director of the Neuroscience Institute at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York, Dr. Brisman is also Co-Director of The Long Island Gamma Knife at South Nassau Hospital in Oceanside, New York. He serves on the Board of Directors on the New York State Neurosurgical Society and the Executive Committee of the Nassau County Medical Society.

After completing her chief residency year at Mount Sinai, Dr. Joan O’Shea (1996) studied under the direction of Michael Neuwirth and spent an additional year of training in Orthopaedic spinal surgery. She now is the President of The Spine Institute of Southern New Jersey, a multi-disciplinary spine surgery practice. Joan is also a co-founder of South Jersey Surgical Center and the first surgeon performing outpatient spinal surgeries, fusions and artificial disc replacements in southern New Jersey. Since 1999 she annually moderates the AANS breakfast seminar on Lumbar Fusion. She is the mother of three beautiful girls, the oldest who has Down syndrome, the youngest who is six months old. When not at work, she enjoys being a Girl Scout leader, cooking, skiing, water sports, and the beach.

Mark B. Eisenberg, MD, (1994) was in private practice in the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System, and in November 2005 he became a full time faculty member in the Harvey Cushing Institutes of Neuroscience. He is also Chief of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center.
After residency, **Jeff Oppenheim, MD**, (1994) joined a private practice in Rockland County with Dan Spitzer. Their practice has grown with the addition of Jeff Degen and Alex Jones. They all trained at different places, making their partnership very interesting.

Dr. Oppenheim is on staff at more than ten hospitals, including Columbia-Presbyterian and St. Lukes-Roosevelt, where he recently had the pleasure of working with Chandra Sen. He and his wife Ann have three children, Sam (14), Gaby (12) and Jules (11). In his “free time” Dr. Oppenheim is also the Mayor of the Village of Montebello, NY.

Practicing in Terre Haute, Indiana, **Dr. Manuel Cacdac** (1970) finds time, as a member of the Society of Philippine Surgeons, to return to the Philippines to perform free operations in poor communities. In a recent “one man” surgical mission to Metro Manila, he and other neurosurgeons and residents performed surgical operations on 18 children and left behind shunts for four babies who had medical problems that prevented surgery at that time. As an added benefit, local Filipino doctors and residents who assist in the medical missions are able to learn the latest procedures from the visiting physicians. During his last visit, Dr. Cacdac trained several local neurosurgeons and residents, enabling them to put in the “shunts” that he had left behind.

Residents who trained at Mount Sinai and returned to the full time faculty after fellowships include Assistant Professors **Arthur Jenkins III, MD**, (2000), and **Chun Chen, MD**, (2005). Associate Professor **Jamie Ullman, MD**, (1995), is Director of Neurosurgery at Elmhurst Hospital Center, the primary teaching affiliate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

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**News Briefs**

**Dr. Isabelle Germano** was one of five speakers at a medical education oncology seminar sponsored by St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine on September 13. Her topic was Treatment of Neurological Malignancy - Including Surgical Treatment. The Max and Ida Strauss Foundation made a generous gift to the Department to support Dr. Germano's research.

**Dr. Ron Alterman** was an invited lecturer at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in September. He reports that Mount Sinai is one of eight US centers selected to participate in a Phase 2 clinical trial of NGF gene therapy for Alzheimer’s disease.

In September **Eliza Geer, MD**, received a K award from the NIDDK to investigate Cushing’s Disease.

**H. Richard Winn, MD**, presented Grand Rounds to the Neurology Department at Cornell on September 24. He gave two presentations about fellowships in training programs at the Neurocritical Care Conference in October.

**Jennifer Frontera, MD**, had a poster, “Predictors of Recurrent Angiographic and Symptomatic Vasospasm after Endovascular Angioplasty or Chemical Vasodilation in SAH,” at the Neurocritical Care Conference in October. The poster was a finalist for the clinical research award at the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

**Chun Chen, MD**, was an invited speaker for The 9th Asian-International Congress on Skull Base Surgery in Seoul, Korea, in November.

**Dr. Kalmon Post** was a Visiting Professor in October at Stanford talking on Cushing’s disease, acromegaly, and acoustic tumors. He also gave an invited talk the previous month in Boston at the International Symposium on Meningiomas and the Venous System, where he spoke about cerebello-pontine angle meningiomas.

**Dr. Aman Patel** spoke at a Senior Fellows Course on November 11 at the Codman/Cordis Endovascular Training Facility in Cincinnati about endovascular treatment of aneurysms.

In an oral presentation, **Dr. Abilash Haridas**, PGY 4, introduced his and **Dr. Ron Alterman’s** research data at the AANS/CNS Pediatric Neurological Surgery meeting in Spokane, Washington, in December: *Deep Brain Stimulation in Pediatric Patients: Long-term Outcomes.*


**Jake Gologorsky, MD**, PGY 2, and Leah Karasik married on September 7 in Cleveland, Ohio. In attendance were Ted Panov, PGY 2 and Alex Post, recent graduate.

**Jane Kostadinov, NP**, and husband Kiril welcomed Liam Blair into the world on September 25. He joins big sister Kira.
Upcoming Events

December 2008
Resident Interviews: December 10 and 17

January 2009
Resident Interviews: January 14
Combined Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology
Grand Rounds: January 21, 2009, 7-9 AM

March 2009
Match Day: March 19
ABNS Written Primary Exam: March 28

June 2009
Research Day: June 3
Ved P. Sachdev, MD, Endowed Lecture
Jeannette and Bernard S. Post, MD, Endowed Lecture
Presentations by residents and faculty of their current research
Resident Graduation Dinner: June 17

Conference Schedule

Mon: 7:15-8:15 AM  ICU Rounds

Tues: 7-8 AM  Neuroradiology Conference

Wed: 7-9 AM  Grand Rounds
9:30-10:30 AM  Medical Student Conference
6-8 PM  Journal Club – 2nd Wednesday of month

Thurs: 7-8 AM  Neuroradiology Conference
7:30-8:30 AM  Endocrine Conference, once a month
8-9 AM  Cerebrovascular Conference
9-10 AM  Brain Tumor Board Conference
12-1 PM  Stroke Conference, 1st and 3rd Thursday

Fri: 7-8 AM  Neuroradiology/Basic Science/Clinical Correlation Conference
9:30-10 AM  Spine Tumor Board Conference