

2024 Grand Plenary Speakers

Wednesday, May 22, 8:00 am – noon

Featuring the following special guest lecturers!

CSNR – Terbrugge Lecture

DBS in the MRI Scanner: From Contra-Indication to New Method of Optimizing Treatment of Neurological Disease



Dr. Walter Kucharczyk, MD, FRCPC

Walter Kucharczyk was born, raised and educated in Toronto. He graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine in 1979; after which he undertook specialty training in Radiology in Toronto, followed by subspecialty training in Neuroradiology and Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the University of California, San Francisco from 1984 to 1986. He returned to a faculty

position at the University of Toronto in 1986, and became the inaugural Director of Magnetic Resonance Imaging at what was then the Toronto General Hospital. At the University, he became Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Imaging in 1991, a position he has held until 2007. He is a senior member of the ASNR and past member of the AASNR Executive Committee. He is Past-President of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM), the largest research and education group in the world (5000 members) devoted to developing and teaching magnetic resonance to doctors and scientists.

Dr. Kucharczyk is author of a book on MRI of the Central Nervous System. He has written over 200 scientific papers and has been invited to give more than 300 international lectures on every continent. He published several of the early papers on the design, operation, and treatment of novel Interventional MRI systems to guide surgical procedures, as well as research-based novel percutaneous and transcatheter MRI-guided treatment systems including several of the early papers on MR thermometry to monitor the effects of heat ablation on human cancer in vivo. Dr. Kucharczyk's research has focused on developing and applying modern high-speed 3D imaging technologies for non-invasive and minimally invasive treatment. He has been awarded several multi-million dollar grants from Technology Ontario, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (CFI), and the Leading Edge Fund of CFI. In a related program, he has also been PI on an ORDCF grant for the Ontario Consortium of Image Guided Therapy and Surgery (OCITS)

CNS – Richardson Lecture

Prosopagnosia: a classical condition in the modern era



Dr. Jason Barton, MD PhD

Jason Barton obtained his MD and completed neurology residency at the University of British Columbia. He was a fellow in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of Iowa and with Jim Sharpe at the University of Toronto, where he obtained his PhD. He was assistant and then associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and director of neuro-ophthalmology at the Beth Israel Deaconess

Medical Center from 1996 to 2004. Since 2004 he has been director of clinical neuro-ophthalmology at Vancouver General Hospital. He is currently professor, Canada Research Chair and Marianne Koerner Chair in Brain Diseases in neurology, ophthalmology and visual sciences, and psychology at the University of British Columbia.

He studies cortical processing of vision, in particular high-level object perception, such as face and word recognition, and the use of saccadic eye movements to explore cognitive control. He operates the website www.neuro-ophthalmology.ca, recognized by the American Academy of Neurology in 2011 as one of the best patient- and resident-education websites. He has received the Francis McNaughton Award from the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation, the Young Investigator Award from the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society, and the Norman Geschwind Award in Behavioural Neurology from the American Academy of Neurology.

CSCN Gloor Lecture

Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence in Epilepsy



Dr. Sándor Beniczky, MD PhD

Sándor Beniczky is a board-certified neurologist, clinical neurophysiologist and epileptologist. After completing medical school and the neurology residency at University of Szeged (Hungary) he completed a PhD in clinical neuroscience, and then moved to Denmark for his fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology and then epileptology.

He is professor at Aarhus University Hospital (Denmark), the head of the Clinical Neurophysiology Department at the Danish Epilepsy Centre and honorary professor at the University of Szeged.

Professor Beniczky is currently the editor-in-chief of Epileptic Disorders, co-chair of the ILAE Neurotechnology Section, member of the Education Council, Congress Council, Big Data Council and Publication Council of the ILAE, past-chair of the joint EEG taskforce of the IFCN and ILAE, member of the IFCN Guidelines Committee.

The main research interest of Professor Beniczky is EEG and epilepsy, focusing on electromagnetic source imaging, seizure detection, automated and semi-automated analysis, artificial intelligence, standardisation and quality-assurance in clinical neurophysiology.

He has supervised 11 Ph.D. students. He is author of over 230 peer-reviewed papers and 23 book chapters.

CACN Tibbles Lecture

Improving Outcome in Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies: Realistic Hope or Pipe Dream?



Dr. Elaine Wirrell, MD PhD

Dr. Wirrell completed her medical school at the University of British Columbia, followed by a residency in Child Neurology at Dalhousie University in Canada. She is currently Professor and Chair of Child Neurology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota.

She has been integrally involved with the International Child Neurology Society for many years, serving as an ICNA Executive

Board member since 2018, as Chair of the ICNA Research Committee from 2018-2022 and she is currently Co-Chair of the Bylaws and Constitution Committee. She served on the core Scientific Committee of the 2022 ICNC meeting in Antalya, Turkey and is Deputy Chair of the 2024 ICNC in Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. Wirrell was the former Co-Chair of the Nosology and Definitions Task Force of the ILAE, and currently serves on both the Pediatrics and Surgical Therapies Commissions and the Terminology and the SNOMED Task Forces. She Co-Chairs the Pediatric Medical Therapies Task Force. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of Epilepsy.com, the public education website for the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Dr. Wirrell has a keen interest in Neurology Education and served as the Vice-Chair of the Neurology Examination Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada from 2009-2014. She currently is the Program Director of the Child and Adolescent Neurology Residency at Mayo Clinic and served as Co-Chair of the Pellock Epilepsy Symposium, an educational program offered to all North American final year Child Neurology trainees through the Child Neurology Society from 2016-2023. Her research interests include optimizing care for children with Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies, epidemiology and co-morbidities of pediatric epilepsy and she has published over 270 peer-reviewed articles and numerous book chapters.

She has been the recipient of several awards including the AES Kiffin Penry award for Excellence in Epilepsy Care and the Mayo Clinic Distinguished Clinician award.

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CNSS Penfield Lecture



Dr. Edward Chang

Dr. Edward Chang is a neurosurgeon who treats adults with difficult-to-control epilepsy, brain tumors, trigeminal neuralgia, hemifacial spasm and movement disorders. He specializes in advanced brain mapping methods to preserve crucial areas for speech and motor functions in the brain. He also has extensive experience

with implantable devices that stimulate specific nerves to relieve seizure, movement, pain and other disorders. He is the chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery.

Dr. Chang's research focuses on the brain mechanisms for speech, movement and learning. He co-directs the Center for Neural Engineering and Prostheses, a collaborative enterprise of UCSF and the University of California, Berkeley. The center brings together experts in engineering, neurology and neurosurgery to develop state-of-the-art biomedical technology to restore function for patients with neurological disabilities such as paralysis and speech disorders.

Dr. Chang earned his medical degree at UCSF, where he also completed a residency in neurosurgery. He was honored with the Blavatnik National Laureate for Life Sciences in 2015. In 2020, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, an honor that recognizes outstanding achievements and service in the fields of medical sciences, health care and public health.

CSC Sandra Black Lecture

Addressing Inequities in Stroke Care and Outcomes



Dr. Moira Kapral, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Dr. Moira Kapral is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is a staff physician at the Toronto General Hospital/University Health Network, where she holds the Lillian Love Chair in Women's Health. She is co-principal investigator of the Ontario Stroke Registry and she performs health services research

with a focus on identifying and addressing inequities in stroke care and outcomes. She is a senior scientist at ICES and the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute and is cross-appointed to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. She has received the Dr. J. Edgar Kenton III Award for Disparities Research from the American Stroke Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine.