PLENARY GUEST SPEAKERS

Warren Blume

After Princeton, Dr. Blume graduated in medicine from McGill in 1962. He trained in paediatric and adult neurology, adult and child electroencephalography (EEG), and neonatal EEG in: Quebec, Montreal, Wisconsin, Mayo Clinic and Paris. Following two years as an Associate Consultant at Mayo, he joined the burgeoning Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at the University of Western Ontario in 1972 under Drs. HJM Barnett and CG Drake. With Dr. John Girvin, he co-founded and co-directed the Epilepsy Programme at UWO/University Hospital where he is presently Professor Emeritus. Dr. Blume has served as president of the following professional societies: Canadian League Against Epilepsy (founding member), Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists, Canadian Association of Child Neurology, Canadian Board of EEG Technologists, American Clinical Neurophysiology Society and the Central EEG Society. He initiated and first-chaired the CSCN EEG examination. For the International League Against Epilepsy, Dr. Blume chaired the Committee on Glossary of Descriptive Terminology for Ictal Semiology and has been a member of the Seizure Classification Committee. He has received the following awards: The Wilder Penfield Award of the CLAE; The Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee; and the HOPE (Helping Out People with Epilepsy) award of the Epilepsy London Support Group. Dr. Blume has served on the editorial board of the following neuroscience journals: The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences, Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, European Neurology, Journal of Clinical Neurophysiology, International Abstracts, and Epilepsy Currents (American Epilepsy Society). Throughout his career, he lectured around the world including (Lennox Lecture of the AES/CLAE, Goldring Lecture of Washington University of St. Louis. With over 200 articles and chapters, Dr. Blume continues his interest in clinical neuroscience.

Antoine Hakim

Dr. Antoine Hakim was first an engineer and at the age of 29 began his medical training at The Albany Medical College in New York. In 1979 he completed his residency in Neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute at which time his research career in stroke began.

Dr. Hakim's research interests have included: the study of selective cerebral vulnerability in stroke and other conditions, the determination of conditions for neuroprotection against ischemic damage, and investigation of post-stroke plasticity and means of enhancing it.

He has experience in the private, academic and hospital sectors, and has chaired and served as a member of many committees and boards of granting agencies, foundations, hospitals and professional associations. In addition to teaching, research, and administrative duties, he maintains clinical duties as a neurologist at The Ottawa Hospital. He has received many honours during his career, including the Jonathan Ballon Award in 1985, Researcher of the Year in Ottawa Award in 1995, Award of Excellence by the Canadian Stroke Consortium in 2000, and the Ottawa Life Sciences Council Career Achievement Award in 2004. In 2005 the Canadian Stroke Network was renewed by the Networks of Centres of Excellence Program for another four years with funding of $25.6 Million. In February 2007, he was honoured to receive the Thomas Willis Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Stroke Associated and delivered the Thomas Willis Lecture at the International Stroke Conference in San Francisco. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada in 2007 and received the MEDEC Award for Medical Achievement from Canada's Medical Device Technology Companies.

Dr. Hakim continues to support scientific discovery in stroke and its application to improve stroke prevention, care and rehabilitation. This is all only possible because of the commitment, dedication and support he obtains from many individuals and organizations at the University of Ottawa, at the Canadian Stroke Network, the Centre for Stroke Recovery, and during the many initiatives of the Canadian Stroke Strategy.

Dennis Choi

Dennis Choi received the MD degree from the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences & Technology Program, as well as a PhD degree in Pharmacology and neurology residency/fellowship training from Harvard, before joining the faculty at Stanford in 1983. In 1991, he went to St. Louis to be the Jones Professor and Head of Neurology at Washington University, Neurologist-in-Chief at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and Director of the McDonnell Center for Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology and the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury. At the end of 2001 he joined Merck Research Labs as Executive Vice-President for Neuroscience, leaving in 2006 to accept appointments at Boston University as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and at Oxford University as Visiting Professor in Clinical Neuroscience. In 2007 he joined Emory University as Executive Director of the university's Neuroscience Initiative. He is currently a member of the Institute of Medicine and its Neuroscience Forum, the Executive Committee of the Dana Alliance for Brain Research, and the visiting committee advising the Harvard-MIT HST Program. Past service has included the National Academy of Science's Board on Life Sciences, multiple editorial boards (including the Board of Reviewing Editors for Science, and founding co-editorship of Neurobiology of Disease) and advisory boards, presidency of the Society for Neuroscience, chairmanship of the US National Committee to the International Brain Research Organization, and vice-presidency of the American Neurological Association. His research on mechanisms of brain or spinal cord injury has been recognized by several awards.

Edward Kaye

Edward M. Kaye, M.D. is currently Group V.P. of Clinical Research at Genzyme Corporation where he supervises the clinical research in the lysosomal storage disease programs and in the genetic neurological disorders. He received his medical school education and pediatric training at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and University Hospital, Child Neurology training at the Boston City Hospital, Boston University, and completed his training as a Neurochemical Research Fellow (Geriatric Fellow) at the Bedford VA Hospital, Boston University in 1983. He was head of the section of Neurometabolism, Pediatric Neurology at The Floating Hospital for Children (Tufts University) and research fellow in gene therapy at the Massachusetts General Hospital until 1996 when he moved to Philadelphia to become Chief of Pediatric Neurology and Director of the Barnett Mitochondrial Laboratory at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. In 1998, he accepted the appointment as Chief of Biochemical Genetics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics until moving to Genzyme Corporation at the end of 2001. He continues as a member of the Neurology Department at the Children's Hospital of Boston and has been on the editorial boards of a number of journals including Annals of Neurology, Journal of Child Neurology, and Pediatric Neurology. He is also on the Medical Advisory Boards of the United Leukodystrophy Foundation and Spina Muscular Atrophy Foundation.

J P Mohr

Dr. Mohr is from Lynchburg, Virginia, graduated from Haverford College in 1958, and from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in 1963 with an M.D. and M.S. in Pharmacology as a USPHS five-year plan fellow.

He was an Intern and Medical Resident at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown NY from 1962-1965. He began his residency training in Neurology with one year at the New York Neurological Institute at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, and finished in 1969 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where he also trained in Neuropathology and Stroke under C.M. Fisher, M.D. After three years Army service during the Viet Nam war at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research he returned to Boston in 1971 as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School to direct the Behavior Laboratory and Stroke Service at the Massachusetts General Hospital and as Director of the Neurology Unit at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Hospital. In 1978 he became founding chairman of the Department of Neurology, University of South Alabama in Mobile.
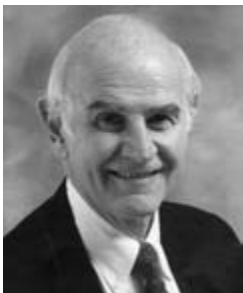
In 1983 he returned to New York to became the Sciarra Professor of Clinical Neurology and Director fo Stroke research, which decveloped into the recently-established Doris & Stanley Tananbaum Stroke Center, Horace W. Goldsmith Neurovascular Laboratory and James M. Nederlander Teaching Unit at the Neurological Institute.

He serves on national and international committees and consulting boards, is editor of three books, 250 refereed and 105 invited publications.

Charles Tator

Dr. Tator is a professor in the Department of Surgery, at the University of Toronto, and a neurosurgeon at the Toronto Western Hospital. After graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto in 1961, he trained in research in neuropathology at the University of Toronto and received an MA in 1963 and a PHD in 1965. He completed the Neurosurgery resident training program at the University of Toronto in 1969. He has been Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto and the Chief of Neurosurgery at Sunnybrook and the Toronto Western Hospitals. He started the first Acute Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) unit in Canada in 1974, and studied the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of acute SCI. He examined the role of surgery and acute spinal cord decompression in clinical and experimental studies.

His laboratory research has been aimed at determining the pathophysiology of SCI, especially mechanisms of secondary injury including posttraumatic ischemia. His acute cord clip compression model was the first SCI model in rodents. His current laboratory focus is on stem cell research for regeneration after spinal cord injury.

He has held two research chairs at the University of Toronto, the Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery and the Campeau Family-Charles Tator Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research. In 2000, he received the Order of Canada.

In 1985-86, he was President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society, and from 2002-2007 he was Chair of the Canadian Brain and Nerve Health Coalition. In 1992, he founded ThinkFirst, Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury foundation whose mission is to reduce the incidence of catastrophic injuries in Canada. He was President of ThinkFirst from 1992-2007. ThinkFirst is a leader in the promotion of safety for Canada's children and youth and has developed and disseminated targeted injury prevention programs in schools and in sports and recreation.

Garnette Sutherland

Dr. Garnette Sutherland received his undergraduate education in both science and medicine at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba. His post graduate education was completed in 1984 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery (Neurosurgery) and Pharmacology at the University of Manitoba and promoted to Associate Professor at the same university in 1988. In 1993, he accepted the position of Professor and Head of Neurosurgery - Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta and was Head until 2003. He has made a number of contributions to science and medicine, as reflected by 175 abstracts, 146 peer-reviewed publications, 18 monographs or book chapters, and 13 patents. His major research focus has been the application of MR techniques to the study of neurological diseases. Over the past 6 years he has lead Project neuroArm in the development of an MR-compatible image guided robotic system for neurosurgery. Dr. Sutherland was the founding Director of the Seaman Family MR Research Centre. In 2004, he received the Manning Award of Distinction for the development of an intraoperative MR system based on a movable 1.5 Tesla magnet and in 2007 he received the Federal Partners in Technology Transfer Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer and the ASTech Award for Outstanding Leadership in Alberta Technology.

Peter Rieckmann

Dr. Peter Rieckmann has recently arrived in Vancouver, Canada as the new Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada Research Chair based at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Research Institute's Brain Research Centre at UBC Hospital. He also holds positions as professor of neurology (Faculty of Medicine UBC) and director of the MS Program for UBC and VCH.

Dr. Rieckmann moved from Würzburg, Germany where he was head of the Clinical Research Group for MS and Neuroimmunology at the Julius-Maximilians University for the last 8 years. He studied and trained neurology and basic sciences at the university of Göttingen (Germany), National Hospital Queen Square, London UK and the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda USA. His major research interests are disease modifying factors and development of new therapeutic strategies to enhance tissue repair in multiple sclerosis. He has also worked on molecular and functional aspects of the blood brain barrier in neuroimmunological diseases.

His clinical goals include enhancing awareness and education about MS, developing new sensitive clinical scales as well as effective and properly resourced services for MS outpatient care leading to more customized treatments for patients.

Dr. Rieckmann holds a number of academic positions including visiting professorships at the University of Nagoya (Japan) medical university school of Belgrade (Serbia) and the University Medical School of Chennai in India. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC).

He has been presented with several honours, awards and prizes including the Hans-Heinrich-Queckenstedt-Prize, the Käte-Hammersen-Prize and the Langheinrich-Prize for MS Research. He sits on various boards including the Medical Advisory board of the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, European Council for Treatment and Research in MS (ECTRIMS) and the international Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Consensus Group (MSTCG).

Dr. Rieckmann has produced over 150 original articles in peer reviewed journals, 58 review articles, 25 book chapters, 2 textbooks and has given more than 200 invited lectures.

He is married with two children.