

Neurosurgery News

The Practice Newsletter for WSU Neurosurgery

July 2011: Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness 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!

In this issue:

Saying Goodbye to One, and Hello to Another

Our Latest Contest Winners, and a Look at What They Do

Upcoming Holidays and Events

Our Monthly Contest

Did You Know?

Our Monthly Brain Food

Kickball Is Coming Back....Or Maybe It's Softball This Time

We had so much fun the last time, we are going to do it again!

Be prepared to head over to Tolan Playfield sometime in the near future to take part in a great department event.

Contact Debbie Fleming for more information.

Dr. Thomas is Recognized by the MSMS

Past Chairman is Given Prestigious Citation

Dr. L. Murray Thomas, Professor Emeritus in the WSU Department of Neurosurgery received a Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Presidential Citation at the 161st Annual Meeting of the Wayne County Medical Society on May 18, 2011. Dr. Daniel Michael selected Dr. Thomas for this award because of his many years dedicated to education and research in the field of neurosurgery.



Dr. Thomas entered Wayne State University in 1946 as a pre-medical student, served his neurosurgical residency under Dr. Steven Gurdjian, ultimately became a faculty member of the WSU School of Medicine and finally served as Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, WSU during the years of 1970 through 1989.

Dr. Daniel Michael, President of the MSMS from 2009 to 2011, was a resident of Dr. Thomas from 1984 to 1989 and was eloquent when stating his reasoning for selecting Dr. Thomas as he paraphrased part of the Hippocratic Oath that he will “hold those that taught him the art of medicine and surgery as dear to him as his parents.” Dr. Michael also described the research efforts of Dr. Thomas as ground-breaking, and setting a standard for helmet research called the Wayne Tolerance Curve, which is still used to this day.

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NextGen EMR has arrived in Neurosurgery.

While we are still working out our processes, we thank everyone for their support and patience. The nurses have been particularly helpful and upbeat. Thank you.

He Says Goodbye....

Our Annual Resident Picnic, Celebrating Todd Francis



On June 25th, our annual Resident Graduation Picnic was held, and this year, we celebrated the end of residency for Todd Francis.

With wonderful weather and wonderful people to spend the day with, a great time was had by all.



Dr. Francis has spent over seven years with the department, earning a PhD to accompany his MD during this time. On a per-

sonal level, this period also saw Dr. Francis get married and see the birth of his son.

Upon completion of his time here at Wayne State, Dr. Francis will be entering into a spine surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

Other News and Notes



Dr. Nick Szerlip is joining our department and faculty with a specialty interest in neuro-oncology. He comes from New York, and is married with a son. His office will be located in 6E-UHC, and Nancy Triggs will be handling his secretarial duties. Pager and other information will be forthcoming. Welcome to the department, Nick!

Margaret Leahy is resigning so she can pursue her nursing degree at St. Clair Community College. Margaret has been an integral part of our medical records department for over four years. Congrats and good luck, Margaret!

Debbie Fleming has also been accepted to nursing school at Davenport University. Debbie will be remaining with the department while in school, and we can all agree this is a great thing for the department. Congrats Debbie!

....And She Says Hello

Elizabeth Klein Joins Our Department as Newest Resident

As is the case around this time every year, we are welcoming a new resident to our department. This year, that resident would be Elizabeth Klein.



Elizabeth joins us from the Chicago area, where she attended the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University. She previously studied at the University of Michigan, where she obtained a degree in biology and Spanish.

That's not to say that Elizabeth's isn't familiar with the area; she grew up in Grosse Pointe Park, and spent time doing research for the Engineering Department here at WSU as an undergraduate student and while in high school. She has continued along this path, with extensive research and volunteer work.

In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys running (she has also organized 5K races) and playing ice hockey (which she has also spent time teaching to children). She is also an avid artist, with a keen interest in impressionist art.

The next time you see Elizabeth around our offices, make sure to say hello!

Brain Food for the Month

Official Symbols of Michigan

Flower: Apple Blossom

Wild Flower: Dwarf Lake Iris

Tree: White Pine

Bird: American Robin

Fish: Brook Trout

Game Mammal: White-Tailed Deer

Reptile: Painted Turtle

Stone: Petoskey Stone

Gem: Chlorastrolite

Soil: Kalkaska Sand

Fossil: Mastodon

Song: *My Michigan*

Children's Book: *The Legend of Sleeping Bear*

Motto: *Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam,*

circumspice (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you)

Historical Society: Historical Society of Michigan

Did You Know?

Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month falls in July. It was created to bring awareness to congenital anomalies such as cleft palate and other craniofacial conditions.

Often, people think that these conditions are only cosmetic problems, when in actuality, they can often also be life-threatening.

For more information and what can be done to help with these disorders, click on this logo:



Upcoming Dates of Interest:

07.01.2011 | Canada Day
07.04.2011 | Independence Day
07.24.2011 | Parents' Day
08.01.2011 | Ramadan Begins
08.15.2011 | Feast of the Assumption
08.19.2011 | National Aviation Day
08.26.2011 | Women's Equality Day
08.30.2011 | Eid ul-Fitr

What's on Your Mind?

The Winners of Our Previous Contest and a Look at One of Our Research Teams

Asadollah. That first name kept many entries in our last contest from being winners. However, not everyone was tricked by the WSU e-mail directory and the WSUPG website, and we did have winners. Teaming up their skills and prowess, the three researchers in the lab of Dr. Alana Conti won our contest.

Who? Dr. Conti? Who's that? Perhaps some of you are thinking that right now. And that's likely because the research arm of our department can be easily forgotten. Since we don't see them around the offices every day like our clinical and educational staffs, we don't get the chance to find out more about what they do on a daily basis. Therefore, I decided to change that, and give you all a more in-depth look into one of the research aspects of our department.

I travelled over to the John Dingell VA Hospital one morning recently (yes, we have offices in the VA!) to talk to Dr. Conti and her team about the research they are completing. It was truly interesting stuff, and I was engrossed throughout my time there. Dr. Conti is looking into the effects of alcohol on a variety of topics and conditions. Some of the more prevalent ones that were brought up during my visit were traumatic brain injury and fetal alcohol syndrome. She could certainly tell you more about it than I could; ask her the next time you see her.

Furthermore, I had a great time learning about this from Dr. Conti and her team: Laura Susick, Jennifer Lowing, and Anthony Provenzano. These three were effective and great at what they were doing, and I had a great time with them. Everyone should take the time to get to know them a little better the next time they see them. You won't be disappointed!



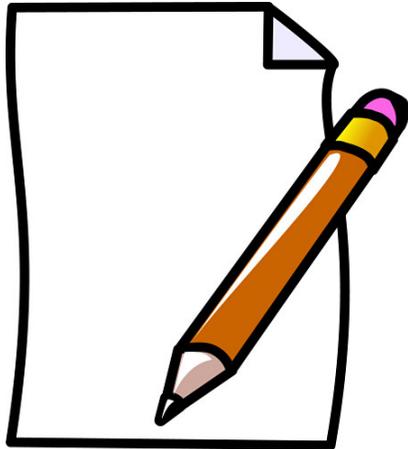
Our three winners from the Conti Lab: Laura, Anthony, and Jennifer.

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 July

A Creative Sort of Contest

This one is going to be either really easy or really tough.



Write a short story.

Yep, that's it. Write a short story.
And short means short.
The shorter the better.

What could be easier?

However, to have some sort of rules for this contest, all of the stories must include the follow elements:

- **All stories must include one of our physicians.**
- **All stories must include one of our staff members.**
- **All stories must include one of our clinic locations.**
 - **All stories must include a four-legged animal.**
- **All stories must include a famous phrase from a movie.**
- **All stories must use the color chartreuse or vermilion.**

Simple enough, right? Then get to it!
Good luck!



All stories must be turned into Brandon by 07.30.2011. They will be judged by an impartial group of your peers, and the one deemed the best will win a prize.