Innovations in Sports Medicine Conference Scheduled for Late April

Athletics are more than a great source of fun and entertainment. Sports, and sports injuries, are becoming of greater concern for medical professionals. That’s why so many neurologists and neurosurgeons are taking an interest in “Innovations in Sports Medicine.” This exclusive, two-day, CME/CEU conference is designed to highlight the latest emerging technologies in the care of athletes. Presented by Methodist University Hospital, the event will be held April 28 & 29, 2005 in Memphis, Tenn.

On April 28, attendees will spend part of their day touring the premium training facilities of the Memphis Grizzlies basketball team at the FedExForum. High-tech surgical and practical demonstrations at MERI will round out an afternoon of diverse learning. Of particular interest, minimally invasive lumbar discectomy and minimally invasive cervical discectomy demonstrations are planned.

That evening, arrangements have been made for attendees to enjoy a baseball game at AutoZone Park, one of the finest AAA baseball parks in the country.

Day two will be spent at the FedEx Institute of Technology, a truly dynamic conference location on the University of Memphis campus. Breakout session topics include MIS Spine Surgery for Athletes, Peripheral Nerve Injuries in Athletes, Concussion Management and Spinal Instability and Fractures - Diagnosis and Management.

Robert G. Watkins, M.D., an internationally recognized spine surgeon practicing in Los Angeles, Calif., will be the keynote speaker at the event. Dr. Watkins served as Professor of Clinic Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Southern California from 1998 to 2002, and as Clinical Associate Professor of Orthopedics from 1980 to 1998. In addition, he has served as orthopedic spinal consultant to a number of athletes, including Mario Lemieux, Wayne Gretsky, Steve Yzerman, Troy Aikman and Randy Johnson.

Dr. Watkins has been a consultant to the Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Kings, Los Angeles Dodgers, California Angels, Anaheim Mighty Ducks and the Phoenix Coyotes. The Professional Golf Association benefits from his expertise, as well. He is co-founder of the Los Angeles based Spine in Sports Foundation.

Other faculty will consist of Semmes-Murphey Neurologic and Spine Institute physicians, Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics physicians and trainers, as well as professional sports trainers.

For more information, to receive pricing information and/or to register, please visit www.methodistmd.org or call 901-516-8933.
The Center for Brain Tumor Research (CBTR) is a basic science research group partnership with the Methodist University Hospital Neuroscience Institute, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), and the Semmes-Murphey Neurologic & Spine Institute. It was established three years ago to aggressively develop molecular research for brain cancers, create translational research that converts basic science into clinical tools and therapies, and combines new technology and therapies with neurosurgical excellence to provide patients with more hope for the future.

“We are actively seeking funding from the NIH and other research agencies for three areas,” said Christopher Duntsch, M.D., Ph.D. “Our major area of focus has been brain tumor cell and molecular biology, coupled with a tumor stem cell emphasis. In addition, we have focus groups developing experimental therapeutics and computational bioinformatics seeking new treatments and diagnostic tools respectively.”

For example, the VSV oncolytics project for the treatment of high-grade brain glioma is an experimental therapeutics project funded recently by the NIH and designed to develop pre-clinical data on the use of a safe and effective tumor lytic virus (a second generation genetically engineered vesicular stomatitis virus, GTx-v401).

Dr. Duntsch said the virus is being developed for future use as an adjuvant therapy that will be combined with surgical resection and radiation to eradicate remaining brain tumor cells.

Gene expression studies of glioma by grade, location, age, recurrence and subtype is a computational bioinformatics approach that uses microarray-based gene expression studies, coupled with epigenetics and proteomics, to create comprehensive bioinformatic databases. These databases can be used to identify new drug targets and build gene expression fingerprints for diagnosing, prognosing and stratifying patients into more effective therapeutic algorithms.

Regardless of the challenges and successes that lie ahead, the primary goals of the CBTR will always be to find a better understanding of brain cancers and to develop new therapies in an effort to change the future for the next generation of brain cancer patients.


“If the brain were so simple we could understand it, we would be so simple we couldn’t.”

- Lyall Watson
Reflections: From the Methodist Neuroscience Institute

Over the course of the last year, the Methodist Neuroscience Institute has enjoyed national acclaim for the presentation of three outstanding live Neurosurgical Webcasts. Broadcasting world-class surgery on the World Wide Web has allowed for the sharing of innovative ideas and treatments in an international forum previously unimaginable.

If you are one of the few who missed the live presentations, never fear. These remarkable 60-minute Surgical Webcasts are available for your viewing convenience anytime at:


Consider yourself cordially invited to:

Log On, and… get inside Dr. Sills’ head, watch Dr. Foley’s back, and see Dr. Boop make a difference in a child’s life.

The Methodist Neuroscience Institute Webcasts currently available on archive are:

Brain Tumor Surgery/GliaSite Radiation Therapy
Featuring Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D.
From Methodist University Hospital

METRx Herniated Disc Repair
Featuring Kevin T. Foley, M.D.
From Methodist University Hospital

Pediatric Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)
Featuring Fredrick A. Boop, M.D.
From Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center

Only online at http://neuro.methodisthealth.org!

Methodist to Participate in Worldwide Clinical Trial for Stroke

Methodist Healthcare will be one of many sites around the world to conduct a new clinical trial for secondary stroke prevention. PROFESS®, the Prevention Regimen For Effectively avoiding Second Strokes, will compare the efficacy and safety of Aggrenox® (25 mg ASA/200 mg extended-release dipyridamole) with clopidogrel, and of Micardis® (telmisartan) with placebo in preventing recurrent stroke.

Neurologist James Wang is responsible for bringing PROFESS®, the world’s largest secondary stroke prevention trial, to Methodist Healthcare.

“We live in a region that is greatly impacted by stroke,” said Dr. Wang, Medical Director, Methodist Neuroscience Institute Stroke Center. “All of us at Methodist are excited to be involved in something with the potential to have such a positive impact on the lives of our patients.”

PROFESS® will involve 15,500 patients from approximately 600 sites throughout 30 countries in Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America and South Africa for an observation period of up to four years. The trial is designed as a randomized, parallel-group, multi-national, double-blind, double-dummy, active and placebo-controlled, 2 x 2 factorial study. Enrollment criteria include males and females who have had an ischemic stroke within 90 days.

If you are interested in referring a patient into the PROFESS® clinical trial, please contact Deborah Terry, RN at (901) 516-8130. For more information on PROFESS®, please visit:

www.profess-study.com

Impulses
Stimulating clinical advancements in the MNI

The Methodist University Hospital Neuroscience Institute is dedicated to maintaining a practical balance of teaching, research and patient care under one roof to offer the maximum benefit to patients. In addition to the clinical trials featured elsewhere in this publication, the following trials are also underway at the MNI:

• Phase II Study Utilizing Focal Radiation in Patients with 1-3 Brain Metastases.
• Phase I/II Trial of Gleevec (Imatinib Mesylate, formerly known as STI-571) and Gliadel For Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma Multiforme.
• Phase III Randomized Trial of the Role of Whole Brain Radiation Therapy in Addition to Radiosurgery in the Management of Patients with One to Three Cerebral Metastases.

For more information on these, or any of the many clinical trials currently underway, please visit http://neuro.methodisthealth.org and click on Research.
• A CON for operating room renovations at Methodist University Hospital was recently approved. This will allow for new operating rooms with additional square footage and ceiling height to hold advanced surgical technologies for image-guided surgical navigation, surgical microscopes and minimally invasive surgery systems. One of the six new 650 square foot ORs will be specially equipped to perform minimally invasive spine surgery.

• The International Neuro-Oncology Update presented by Methodist University Hospital is growing! A partnership with Johns Hopkins and The Carlo Besta National Neurological Institute in Milan, Italy will expand the Neuro-Oncology Update to new heights. 2005 will see the conference presented in Tuscany on June 25 & 26 and then it heads back home to Memphis in 2006. This exciting event travels to Johns Hopkins in 2007.

• Methodist University Hospital has teamed with Semmes-Murphey Neurologic & Spine Institute and Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics to become the official Sports Medicine Providers for the Memphis Grizzlies.

• Mark your calendars! The Head for a Cure 5K Race dedicated to raising funds for brain tumor research will be held July 15, 2005 at the Mike Rose Soccer Complex in Collierville, Tenn.

• Methodist Healthcare is proud to be named on Consumer Digests’ 50 Exceptional Hospitals and Verispan’s Top 100 Integrated Healthcare Networks lists.