Neurologist returns to Calgary to continue epilepsy research

After working at the Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research in London, England, Dr. Colin Josephson has returned to Calgary as a clinician-scientist in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

Dr. Josephson, who completed a two-year Fellowship in epilepsy and EEG in Calgary in 2015, says it was his experience at DCNS that drew him back.

“I really felt academically and clinically supported throughout my fellowship,” he says. “As a young, burgeoning researcher, this is an environment that is very unique when compared to many other centres in the world.”

The neurologist is using appointments to DCNS, the Oliffen Institute for Public Health, and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute to further his Big Data research. “I’m looking at large, linked administrative and electronic medical records information and administrative and electronic medical records information,” he says. “I'd like to train people to use these large databases to develop their own prognostic models and clinical decision rules for epilepsy.”

It’s work, Dr. Josephson says, that could not happen without the HOTCRU.

“Ultimately, Dr. Josephson hopes his research will also help other neurological disciplines. “I’d like to train people to use these large databases to develop their own prognostic models in precision medicine.”

DCNS members join CNS board

Dr. Dr. Biyaj Menon has been awarded this year’s Michael S. Pessin Stroke Leadership Prize by the American Academy of Neurology.

The prize, which recognizes outstanding achievements in stroke research, will be presented in April at the 68th Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

“It is a recognition of what we’re doing here,” says Dr. Menon, “the quality of our research, which I feel is a reflection of all that we do as a team. Although one person gets it, it’s teamwork in the end.”

The Michael S. Pessin award has honoured 17 individuals since its inception, including DCNS members Dr. Andrew Demchuk, Dr. Michael Hill, and Dr. Shelagh Coutts.

“For four of us in one institution to have been recipients is a statement on the quality of what we’re doing here,” says Dr. Menon.

“Not just on the research side, but also how we’re changing patient outcomes.”

The Over-arching goal of the CNS is to enhance the care of neurological patients through education, advocacy, and improved methods of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation,” says Dr. Costello.

“The over-arching goal of the CNS is to enhance the care of neurological patients through education, advocacy, and improved methods of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.”

Upcoming speakers are listed on the DCNS site.

If you have a suggestion for a speaker, or would like to present yourself, please send comments/questions to Quentin.