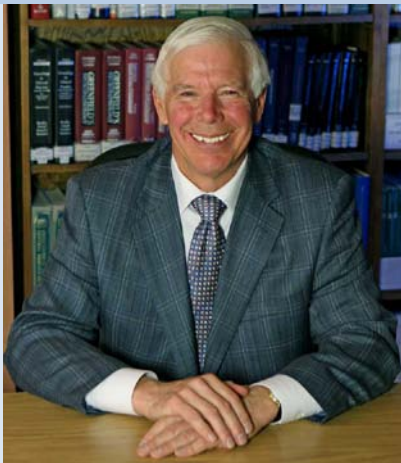


# DCNS Neuro News



FACULTY OF MEDICINE | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

2<sup>nd</sup> Issue – Summer 2013



## Farewell to Dr. John Letter

While Dr. John Letter, professor emeritus in the division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), says he has mixed feelings as he moves into retirement, he also has many accomplishments to be very proud of.

"I have always felt that I am an exceedingly lucky gentleman, I get to come to work and play with kids and also be involved in the medical education of undergraduates and residents," he says.

Dr. Letter has been with The Department of Clinical Neurosciences for 11 years. He was the division head of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from 2002 to 2009. He founded the

## Upcoming Events



**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Meet and Greet and Welcome Back - Hiking Event  
for DCNS residents, faculty, fellows and families:**

Boundary Ranch – Kananaskis [www.boundaryranch.com](http://www.boundaryranch.com)

10:00am – 4:00pm To register go to: [hiking event](#)

## Announcements - Department Manager Change

Rod Mohr, zone manager, is leaving the department at the end of July. Rod has a master of health administration degree and extensive experience in health care with his most recent experience at: The Palliser Health Authority, Northwestern Health Services Region, We-Net, The Department of Medicine and Alberta Health Services (AHS). He was called out of retirement to join DCNS last November.

"I was enjoying life in Arizona when AHS called to ask me to return for a while, I thought to myself, this had better be good, and it was," he says. I had some very positive experiences with Dr. Midha and Dr. Letter in the past, so that was a big part of my decision to take on the

residency training program for the division in 2004.

“The program had its first graduates in 2009 and we now have a very active training program,” he says proudly. In 2009, he received the Professional Association of Resident’s Physicians (PARA) well-being award. Well-being is an important issue to resident physicians and it’s one of PARA’s primary focuses. The award recognizes outstanding contributions made in this area by a physician and Dr. Latter was nominated by his resident colleagues for this award. He attributes much of his success over the years to all of the support he has received.

“Nothing happens without a lot of team support and for that, I am very thankful,” he says.

[see more](#)

## The Neurovestibular Clinic Open at The South Health Campus

Relief is now closer at hand to help patients re-gain their balance and stop the whirling sensations caused by dizziness. The Neurovestibular Program opened at the South Health Campus in January this year. Informally known as the Dizzy Clinic, the program was developed by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the neurology and otolaryngology divisions of DCNS and surgery.

Featuring the latest in diagnostic and rehabilitative technology, the program involves; three specialized physicians, a technician and two physiotherapists practicing out of the clinic.

“When patients can see an interdisciplinary team, it helps them to get back on their feet faster,” says Dr. Bill Fletcher, professor of neurology at DCNS and a neuro-ophthalmologist who co-directs the program with Dr. Beth Lange, an otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist). “Research suggests that the longer you take to treat people with neurovestibular issues, the longer their recovery takes.”

[see more](#)

assignment. I have enjoyed my time here very much." Please join us in wishing Rod the best as he continues to enjoy his retirement and his passion for motorcycling.

Dalyce Cruikshank, will start transitioning into Rod’s role effective July 8. She has more than 30 years of experience in health care with her most recent experience in management roles. Her education includes a baccalaureate nursing degree from The University of Calgary and a master of science degree in administration from Central Michigan University. She was the department manager for The Department of Family Medicine for five years. Most recently, she was the acting department manager for the Department of Surgery where she covered a maternity leave.

Dalyce has worked in both rural and urban settings in Alberta and been employed in all aspects of health care including: acute care, public health, home care and long-term care. She has experience in the profit, non-profit and governmental sectors of health-care provisioning. We welcome Dalyce to DCNS!

## Congratulations!

We wish to recognize neurosurgery resident, Dr. Philippe Mercier, who recently received a \$500 scholarship recognizing his exceptional leadership during the core training years of his residency by The Calgary and Area Medical Staff Society. Dr. Mercier was also recently recognized by his fellow residents for his leadership skills by being awarded the Resident Teacher, Dr. S.T. Myles award. Well done! For a list of all the recent recipients of Residency Awards [click here](#).

## Newsworthy Links

[Calgary Clean Up](#)

[Support for Albertans Affected by Flood](#)

[Canadian Red Cross Donations](#)

[AHS Flood Updates and Resources](#)

## No Grand Rounds scheduled for July and August

**Have a great summer everyone!**



To submit content or get connected to The Department of Clinical Neurosciences for regular department updates please contact: [jennifer.hunter2@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:jennifer.hunter2@albertahealthservices.ca).