

# DCNS Neuro News

The Department of Clinical Neurosciences

April 2017



Flags throughout the University of Calgary were lowered on April 13 in honour of DCNS co-founder Dr. Robert G. Lee.

## DCNS remembers Dr. Robert G. Lee

Neurologist and DCNS co-founder Dr. Robert G. Lee passed away in Calgary on Friday, March 31, 2017.

Dr. Lee was a physician, a teacher, a scholar—and also dedicated to sharing his knowledge with physicians in remote parts of the world. As part of a University of Calgary program, he visited Laos in S.E. Asia over a dozen times and helped create a family medicine training program that has graduated over a hundred doctors.

Dr. Lee completed his neurology training at the University of Toronto—where he played varsity football.

Dr. Lee was recruited to Calgary by the Faculty of Medicine on Jan. 1, 1974 to become the first academic neurologist in Calgary.

He was a proud member of the “highly secretive” Corkscrew Club, which held clandestine meetings after hours with the aim of uniting Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Foothills and Calgary General Hospitals.

The Corkscrew Club (named for the 16th Avenue restaurant where they met — now The Keg), included Drs. Frank LeBlanc, Peter Seland and Mike Hunter.

Their perseverance led to the creation of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences in 1981.

Dr. Lee was awarded Professor Emeritus status by the Cumming School of Medicine and had a lecture series named in his honour in December 2016.

A celebration of Dr. Lee’s life will be



held at a later date in Kananaskis. Memorial tributes may be made directly to the Nature Conservancy of Canada or the Laos Project at the University of Calgary.

### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

#### Dr. Leung recognized with resident education award

PM&R Residency Program Director **Dr. Gentson Leung** has won the 2017 PGME Outstanding Commitment to Residency Education award after being nominated by section members.

The award honours “outstanding contributions made by an individual to residency education through teaching, administration, program development and/or contributions to educational research which benefit residency education.”

“We nominated Gentson for his unrelenting passion for our residency program and for his commitment to ongoing improvement,” says Dr. Vishal Tulsi.

“He has spent countless hours developing and creating an educational website for our residents and continues to use technology in innovative ways to improve our residency training program.”

#### Dr. Subramaniam takes over neuro-ophthalmology lead

**Dr. Suresh Subramaniam** took over as the program lead of Neuro-Ophthalmology effective April 1, 2017.

In addition, the Neuro-Ophthalmology and Neurovestibular programs will be combined, under Dr. Subramaniam’s leadership.

Congratulations, Dr. Subramaniam!

#### Dr. Karnik continues MDS-PAS tradition

**Dr. Vikram Karnik** won first prize for his movement disorders video presentation at the second MDS-PAS Movement Disorders School for Neurology Residents.

“Our program is setting a precedent as Dr. Kelvin Au won first prize last year,” says Dr. Michael Yeung.

The MDS-PAS Movement Disorders School for Neurology Residents is sponsored through the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society with grants from The Edmond J. Safra Foundation and The Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Congratulations! Pressure is on for next year!

#### Music, Movement and the Mind in Rehabilitation

This video, from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, comes highly recommended by a number of physiatrists.

Very interesting if you have the time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRoO-xESQ0c&feature=youtu.be>

#### Dr. Wiebe profiled in The Lancet journal

DCNS neurologist **Dr. Sam Wiebe** was featured in a full-page profile in April’s edition of The Lancet Neurology.

The prestigious journal traces Dr. Wiebe’s journey from Guadalajara and Mexico City to Ontario and Calgary—and his role as president of the International League Against Epilepsy.

“I’m very honoured by what mentors and colleagues said,” Dr. Wiebe remarked. “What I liked about the paper is that it conveys that everything is a product of people that precede you and mentor you.”

In addition to highlighting the work of the International League Against Epilepsy, Dr. Wiebe noted: “It’s also great exposure for the Cumming School of Medicine and the Clinical Research Unit, and for Clinical Neurosciences and the fact that lot of that work is being housed right here.”

The full article, complete with Humphrey Bogart comparisons, can be read here:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/dcns/system/files/sam-wiebe-lancet-profile.pdf>



#### Professor Hu talks to BTV about Parkinson’s research

Translational Neurosciences **Professor Bin Hu** joined CityTV’s Breakfast Television April 4 to talk about his extraordinary Parkinson’s Disease research.

Watch Professor Hu talk with host Leah Sarich about AmbuloSono here: <http://www.btcalgary.ca/videos/improving-the-symptoms-of-parkinsons-disease>

#### Dr. Plamondon lauded for quality improvement work

Dr. Chester Ho sends his congratulations to **Dr. Stephanie Plamondon** on “her excellent presentation at the Certificate in Patient Safety and Quality improvement Poster day.”

Dr. Plamondon presented on her quality improvement work with the Neuromuscular Rehab Clinic waitlist and it was very well received.

“I am really pleased to see that our patients will directly benefit from this excellent work,” says Dr. Ho.