Top Researchers & Clinicians Develop Future Hydrocephalus Research Agenda
Landmark Conference steers direction for future Research Grants

Seattle, WA – The Hydrocephalus Association is co-hosting a trail-blazing research conference in Seattle, Washington, on July 9 – 11, 2012, designed to bring together world-renowned researchers, scientists, NIH representatives, and representatives from biomedical device manufacturers in an effort to advance research on the causes and treatment options for hydrocephalus. The conference will showcase presentations from the leading experts in the field, updating participants on the latest innovations and research findings in hydrocephalus, and engaging them in dialogue to strategize about where the next great breakthroughs will come. The focus will be on research with the greatest potential to impact clinical care.

“We are very excited to have so many experts coming together to focus on new and better ways to treat hydrocephalus patients,” said Paul Gross, chairman of the board of the Hydrocephalus Association. “With this much concentrated effort, we are very optimistic that the outcome will provide the direction and impetus needed to shorten the time it takes to discover new ways to treat the condition. This will have a huge effect on the quality of life for so many patients and their families.”

This conference, entitled Opportunities in Hydrocephalus Research: Pathways to Better Outcomes, boasts a speaker line-up of some of the world’s pre-eminent scientists, researchers, clinicians, and engineers who have been studying key aspects of hydrocephalus such as:

**Causes of Hydrocephalus**
- How genetic changes can cause hydrocephalus, as well as possibilities for genetic interventions and management of congenital defects;
- Expanding understanding of injury mechanisms to better minimize the brain damage that accompanies hydrocephalus, possibly via pharmacological interventions.

**Enhancements in Diagnosis**
- What biomarkers indicate before and after treatment;
- What new and improved techniques in neuroimaging can reveal

**Treatment Advances**
- Which novel advances in bioengineering are likely to reduce the number of surgical revisions;
- How better surgical approaches apply to specific types of hydrocephalus.

**Outcome Improvements**
- What is known about neuropsychological and neurological outcomes across the lifespan;
- Quality of life concerns.

Plenary sessions will be followed by group discussions in each of these categories to promote audience participation and consensus.

Among those presenting at the conference include noted researchers and clinicians:

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Stephen A. Back, MD, PhD - Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon
Mohit Bhandari, MD - Department of Surgery and Clinical Epidemiology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
William G. Bradley, MD, PhD – Department of Radiology, University of California, San Diego, California
Samuel R. Browd, MD, PhD - Departments of Neurosurgery and Bioengineering, Seattle Children’s Research Center and the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Jerold Chun, MD, PhD - Department of Molecular Biology, University of California San Diego and the Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), La Jolla, California
Paige T. Church, MD – Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Thomas J. Clement, MS – Cardiac Insight, Inc./Aqueduct Neurosciences, Inc., Seattle, Washington
Marc R. Del Bigio, MD, PhD, FRCPC - Department of Pathology & Canada Research Chair in Developmental Neuropathology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Maureen Dennis, PhD - Program in Neurosciences and Mental Health, The Hospital for Sick Children; Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto
William B. Dobyns, MD - Seattle Children’s Research Institute & University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Dr. Richard J. Edwards – Neurosurgery Department, Frenchay Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK
Jack M. Fletcher, PhD - Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
Paul H. Gross – Chair, Hydrocephalus Association Board of Directors, San Francisco, California, and member of the National Advisory Neurological Disorders And Stroke Council, Bethesda, MD
Antonio J. Jimenez, PhD - Departamento de Biología Celular Genética y Fisiología, University of Malaga, Spain
John R.W. Kestle, MD, MSc - Primary Children’s Medical Center and the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Abhaya Kulkarni, MD, MSc, PhD, FRCSC - Departments of Neurosurgery & Neurology, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
David D. Limbrick, MD, PhD - St. Louis Children's Hospital & Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
Barry R. Lutz, PhD - Departments of Neurosurgery and Bioengineering, Seattle Children’s Research Center and the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
James (“Pat”) McAllister II, PhD – Departments of Neurosurgery, Bioengineering & Physiology, Primary Children’s Medical Center and University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Jill A. Morris, PhD - Program Director, Neurogenetics, NIH/NINDS, Bethesda, Maryland
Richard S. Morrison, PhD, Department of Neurosurgery, Centers on Human Development and Disability & Proteomics, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington
Marc Randolph – Keynote Speaker - Founder of Netflix, Santa Cruz, California
Norman R. Relkin, MD, PhD - Cornell Memory Disorders Program & Departments of Clinical Neurology and Neuroscience, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, New York
Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD - Primary Children’s Medical Center and the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Esteban Rodriguez, MD, PhD - Instituto de Histología y Patología, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile
Mark Wagshul, PhD – Department of Radiology and Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York
Marion L. (“Jack”) Walker, MD - Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Primary Children's Medical Center & University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Benjamin C. Warf, MD – Department of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts
Laurence Watkins, MD - Victor Horsley Department of Neurosurgery, National Hospital for Neurology and --MORE--
A major national research institute has indicated an interest in using the consensus outcome of this conference as direction for a Request for Applications (RFA), scheduled for later this summer, to fund promising aspects of hydrocephalus research. A full announcement is expected shortly.

The Hydrocephalus Association is partnering with the Seattle Children’s Hospital Research Institute, the University of Washington, the University of Utah Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, the Hydrocephalus Clinical Research Network, and the Hydrocephalus Research Guild to present this conference.

About the Hydrocephalus Association
The Hydrocephalus Association (HA) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to eliminating the challenges of hydrocephalus, a medical condition resulting from an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within cavities of the brain called ventricles. Hydrocephalus affects people of all age groups across the globe. The Association works to meet its mission through the advancement of research, the promotion of advocacy, and the provision of support and education.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and registration information may be found on HA’s web page at: http://www.hydroassoc.org/hydrocephalus-research/research-conference/.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:
When: July 9 – 11, 2012
Where: The Westin Seattle Hotel
1900 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101, United States
Phone: (206) 728-1000
What: Opportunities in Hydrocephalus Research: Pathways to Better Outcomes
Why: There is a small cadre of researchers working tirelessly to better understand the causes and effects of hydrocephalus in approximately 1 million children and adults in the United States alone. This conference brings these researchers together to discuss the latest work conducted throughout the world in this research field, to explore opportunities for collaboration, and to identify critical areas of investigation that will lead to optimal short- and long-term advancements in the treatment of hydrocephalus. Armed with a broader understanding of the key issues facing hydrocephalus, the research community, patient advocates, and public policy makers can be more strategic in their support of a research agenda which can lead ultimately to finding a prevention or cure.

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