Celebrating
50 Years of CNS
OUR BRAINS, OUR FUTURE
The Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences Department (CNS) at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, London Health Sciences Centre, and St. Joseph’s Health Care was established in 1969 based on the collaborative vision of Dr. Charles G. Drake and Dr. Henry J.M. Barnett. Since then, CNS has maintained an interdisciplinary approach to the treatment and prevention of disorders of the brain and nervous system. We are nationally and internationally recognized for leadership in neurological and neurosurgical disorders.

Fifty years later, CNS remains an example of interdisciplinary collaboration and one of the few departments shared by neurologists and neurosurgeons. This collaborative spirit extends well beyond CNS: we have close working relationships with neuroradiologists, neuropathologists, neuro-ophthalmologists, and physiatrists among others.

As the sole tertiary and quaternary referral centre for Southwestern Ontario, CNS provides all subspecialty neurological and neurosurgical care for the entire region. Many of our programs have much a wider impact with referrals coming from all over Ontario. We are also one of only a few centres in Ontario expert in the care of complex Parkinson’s disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disease and chronic pain; and we continue to set national and international standards in stroke prevention. Our epilepsy program is the largest in the country with patients being referred from all over Canada.

Academically, our Department enjoys a strong relationship with researchers at Western and LHSC with many collaborative relationships between our department and neuroscientists at the Robarts Research Institute, Brain and Mind Institute and Lawson Health Research Institute. This has helped CNS maintain a disproportionally high research productivity in many areas of neuroscience. The Department’s education programs are a major focus; including undergraduate medical education, postgraduate training, and fellowships. Our residency programs in neurology and neurosurgery have maintained a track record of excellence, attracting the best candidates from across Canada and abroad. Our fellowship programs are similarly well recognized and sought after by innumerable international applicants.

CNS is truly an amazing Department to call home and we would like to thank all of those who have made the last fifty years of excellence possible. We are equally looking forward for the next fifty years and the continued success of this Department.
OCTOBER 18, 2019

5:30 p.m.    Cocktail Reception
6:30 p.m.    Dinner
9:30 p.m.    Mac Graham Band

RBC Place London
London, ON
Dr. Joseph Megyesi is a Professor in the Division of Neurosurgery at Western University, specializing in neuro-oncology. He completed medical school at Western University in London, Ontario and neurosurgical training at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. During and following his residency, Dr. Megyesi completed a PhD at the University of Alberta and a research fellowship at Harvard University. Dr. Megyesi coordinates many of the teaching elements in Western’s neurosurgical residency program and he is a core member of the CME Accreditation Committee of the RCPSC. He represents the LIHN with Cancer Care Ontario. He is the past Chairman of the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and his work there lead to the creation of the Brain Tumour Registry of Canada, the first national resource of its kind in the country. Dr. Megyesi’s research interests include Epidemiology of brain tumours, brain tumour invasion and angiogenesis, and advanced neuroimaging techniques in brain tumour neurosurgery.

Dr. Elizabeth Finger is an Associate Professor in the Division of Neurology at Western University, specializing in cognitive neurology. Dr. Finger completed her medical degree at Cornell University, and neurology residency training at Harvard at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospitals, followed by a research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. She joined the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences in 2007. Dr. Finger’s research focuses on understanding the cognitive, neural, and genetic substrates of abnormal decision-making, emotion, and social behavior. Her research interests include Dementia, Behavioural Disorders, Cognitive Disorders, Psychopathy, and Empathy.

Dr. Shannon Venance received her PhD from Queen’s University and completed medical school and Neurology residency at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. Dr Venance is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. Her clinical expertise is in disorders of muscle. Dr. Venance is actively involved in education across the learning continuum. She brings a collaborative approach and expertise in change management with a quality improvement lens to her recent roles as the Faculty Lead, MD Curriculum Implementation, Director, Postgraduate Medical Education, CBME Implementation and Assistant Secretary to the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. Her contributions to medical education have been recognized with the Schulich Award of Excellence Distinguished Leader – Undergraduate Medical Education, the Douglas Bocking Award for Excellence in Medical Teaching and the Angelika F Hahn Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching.
Dear Guests,

On behalf of The Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, I would like to welcome you to our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. We are pleased to celebrate such a significant anniversary and look forward to the future.

Founded in 1969 by Drs. Charles G. Drake and Henry J.M. Barnett, our Department remains one of the few in Canada that is shared by neurology and neurosurgery. The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of CNS has been key to its success in the past and will remain its main source of strength in the future. Our Department has been rooted in world class neuroscience research, been a leader in education in neurology and neurosurgery while delivering excellent, evidenced based expert medical care. Tonight, we are celebrating these accomplishments while looking forward to the next 50 years of CNS.

The planning committee and our staff have worked tirelessly to create an inspiring and memorable event where our guests can celebrate both individual and departmental achievements. During the dinner, we will hear from former chairs of CNS who will present on a brief history and significant accomplishments of our Department. We are very excited about our gala dinner’s highlight - the keynote address by Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first neurologist and first Canadian woman in space.

I would like to thank you for attending our anniversary celebration. We hope that this will be a memorable evening where we can all celebrate our Department and catch up with friends and colleagues. Finally, I would like to thank our event sponsors, speakers and planners for their contributions, without which this day would not be possible.

Let’s have a wonderful evening!

Sincerely,

David A. Steven, MD, MPH, FRCSC, FACS
Professor of Neurosurgery
Richard and Beryl Ivey Chair
Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences
Western University

Dr. David Steven received his Bachelor of Science at the University of Manitoba. After completing his MD at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Steven completed his residency in neurosurgery at Western University. During his residency, Dr. Steven obtained his Master’s of Public Health with a concentration in biostatistics at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Following residency, Dr. Steven completed a clinical fellowship in epilepsy surgery at the Montreal Neurological Hospital and Institute. Dr. Steven is the Co-Director of the Epilepsy Program and devotes most of his clinical practice to the surgical treatment of epilepsy.
Dinner Menu

~ FIRST COURSE ~
Assorted Rolls with Butter
Organic Greens with Toasted Pecans
Edible Flower “Confetti” with Apple Vinaigrette

~ MAIN ~
Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Sauce
Herb Roasted Supreme of Chicken
Red Skin Smashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
or
Signature Vegetarian Polenta Bowl
Organic Lentil Risotto
Panache of Seasonal Vegetables

~ DESSERT ~
Belgian Chocolate Salted Caramel Tower
Coffee and Assorted Tea

Wine

~ RED ~
Masi Mondello Delle Venezie, Italy

~ WHITE ~
Placido Pinot Grigio, Italy
Evening Program

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Nick Paparella

WELCOMING REMARKS
Dr. Bertha Garcia, Vice-Dean of Dentistry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, President and CEO of St. Joseph’s Health Care London
Dr. Paul Woods, President and CEO of London Health Sciences Centre

FIRST COURSE
HISTORY OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES
Dr. Paul E. Cooper
Dr. Vladimir Hackinski

SECOND COURSE
ACHIEVEMENTS IN NEUROLOGY & NEUROSURGERY
Dr. Stephen Lownie
Dr. Michael J. Strong

COFFEE AND DESSERT

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Roberta Bondar, C.C. O.Ont. MD PhD FRCP FRSC

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. David Steven, Richard and Beryl Ivey Chair

RECEPTION AND DANCING
Music by: Mac Graham Band
Roche Canada is a proud Innovation Sponsor of the Our Brains, Our Future: 50 Years of CNS.

Inspired by patients. Driven by science.
The world's first neurologist in space, Dr. Roberta Bondar is globally recognized for her pioneering contributions to space medicine research, fine art photography and environment education. Aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery mission STS-42 in 1992, she conducted experiments for 18 countries in the first International Microgravity Laboratory, a precursor to the International Space Station.

Trained as a member of NASA’s Earth Observation Team, Dr. Bondar expanded her professional photographic expertise as an honors student in Professional Nature Photography. Her fine art photographic works are held in private, corporate and institutional collections in Canada, the U.S. and England. She is the author of four best selling books featuring her writing and photography.

Dr. Bondar continues to use fine art photography to explore and reveal Earth’s natural environment from the surface, seeing the world through the creative lenses of medical doctor, scientist, photographer, astronaut and writer. In her current project Protecting Space for Birds, Dr. Bondar is integrating three views of migratory bird corridors in the Americas and Asia-Europe-Africa—space, surface and aerial—to give us insight into the habitats needed by and to protect endangered and threatened birds.

Dr. Bondar’s distinctions are diverse and include: Companion of the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, the NASA Space Medal, induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and into the International Women’s Forum’s Hall of Fame, 28 honorary doctorates from Canadian and American Universities, Chancellor of Trent University 2003-2009, six Canadian schools in her name, a Specially Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, an Honorary Fellow and Honorary Vice-president of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and her own star on Canada’s Walk of Fame.
At Roche, we are working on understanding how diseases differ down to the molecular level, so we can develop new tests and medicines that prevent, diagnose and treat these diseases. With our combined strengths in diagnostics and pharmaceuticals, our personalized healthcare strategy aims to fit the right treatment to the right patient. As the world’s largest biotech company, we develop breakthrough medicines, improving the standard of care across oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and neuroscience. Our track record has allowed us to build lasting and meaningful partnerships across the world with research academia and public healthcare institutions. Going forward, our ability to capture and understand unprecedented amounts of data from multiple sources will allow for a higher resolution and a more in-depth view of each patient, thus putting the promise of truly personalized healthcare within reach. With a strong and diverse portfolio covering the most common to the rarest neurological conditions, Roche is approaching neuroscience and rare disease with curiosity, passion and rigour. Our mission is rooted in our formula: follow the science to improve the lives of people.

At UCB Canada Inc., patients are at the heart of everything we do. Since UCB Canada Inc. was established in 2006, we have continuously maintained invaluable programs for patients and healthcare professionals. Many of the programs we support are noted for their innovation and pioneering work in health care. We are proud supporters of Canadian researchers and to date, more than 6,000 Canadians have participated in over 20 global clinical trials through leading centres across the country.