plenary guest speakers

William T. Couldwell

CNSS Plenary - Penfield Lecture
Thursday - June 16, 2011  10:15 - 10:40 am

Dr. William Couldwell was born in British Columbia, Canada and received his MD and Ph.D. Degrees from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. He trained in Neurological Surgery at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, California.

Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Couldwell did fellowship training in Canada at the Montreal Neurological Institute and in Switzerland. He subsequently joined the faculty at USC and in 1996 accepted a position as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery, at the New York Medical College, (1996-2001).

Since 2001 Dr. Couldwell has served as the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He is serves as a Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, and Secretary of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He has over 265 peer-reviewed publications (of over 500 publications) and has been the recipient of several federal (NIH) and other research grants. His clinical interest is in the surgical management of skull base tumors. His research interest is in defining new therapies based on molecular targets for meningiomas and pituitary tumors.

Ingrid Scheffer

CACN Plenary - Tibbles Lecture
Thursday - June 16, 2011  09:40 - 10:20 am

Professor Ingrid Scheffer is a paediatric neurologist and epileptologist at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her work together with Professor Sam Berkovic, with the molecular geneticists at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Adelaide, has led the field of epilepsy genetics research over the last 19 years. This collaboration resulted in identification of the first epilepsy gene and 13 of the 23 genes currently known. Professor Scheffer has described five new epilepsy syndromes and continues to work on genotype-phenotype correlation, classification of the epilepsies, outcome and new treatments.

Professor Scheffer’s research interests include genetics of epilepsy, epilepsy syndrome classification, novel antiepileptic therapies and autism spectrum disorders. She was awarded the 2007 American Epilepsy Society Clinical Research Recognition Award and the 2009 Eric Susman Prize from the Royal Australasian College Of Physicians. Professor Scheffer is currently Chair of the International League Against Epilepsy Commission for Classification and Terminology.

Judy Illes

CNS / CSCN Plenary - Richardson Lecture
Thursday - June 16, 2011  09:35 - 10:00 am

Dr. Illes is Professor of Neurology and Canada Research Chair in Neuroethics at the University of British Columbia. She is Director of the National Core for Neuroethics at UBC, and faculty in the Brain Research Centre at UBC and the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. She also holds affiliate appointments in the School of Population and Public Health and the School of Journalism at UBC, and in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, USA.

Dr. Illes’ research focuses on ethical, legal, social and policy challenges specifically at the intersection of the neurosciences and biomedical ethics. This includes studies functional neuroimaging in basic and clinical research, dementia, addiction, neurodevelopmental disorders, stem cells and regenerative medicine, and the commercialization of cognitive neuroscience. She also leads a robust program of research and outreach devoted to improving the literacy of neuroscience and engaging stake-holders on a global scale.

Dr. Illes is an internationally recognized author, lecturer, and mentor. She is a co-founder and Governing Board Member of the Neuroethics Society, a member of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, and a former member of the Internal Advisory Board for the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and of the Forum on Neuroscience and Neurological Disorders of the Institute of Medicine (IoM). Her most recent book, the Oxford Handbook of Neuroethics (co-edited with B.J. Sahakian, Oxford University Press, published April 2011). Dr. Illes is also past Chair of the Committee on Women in World Neuroscience (WWN) for the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), and a Canadian Representative to the National Academy of Sciences/IBRO US-Canada Committee.
Allan Taylor is Head of Neurovascular and interventional Surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital and an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town. After completing his neurosurgery training in 1995, he focused his work and research on skull base, as well as neurovascular surgery.

Given the shift in the treatment of intracranial and spinal vascular pathology, Allan subsequently also developed expertise in endovascular approaches. With the encouragement and help of Pierre Lasjaunias and Karel ter Brugge he established an endovascular fellowship programme in South Africa. Under his leadership practical training is provided and research actively encouraged.

Allan has served on the Executive of the World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology, is the next WFITN congress president and serves as the secretary of the Society of Neurological Surgeons of South Africa.

Angela Vincent (Hon PhD Bergen) FRCPATH FRCP FMedSci is Emeritus Professor of Neuroimmunology in the University of Oxford, and an Emeritus Fellow of Somerville College. She still holds an Honorary Consultant position in Immunology and runs the Clinical Neuroimmunology service in Oxford which is an international referral centre for the measurement of antibodies in neurological diseases. She is also a part-time Honorary Consultant and Professor at the Institute of Neurology, UCL.

She and her colleagues collaborate with neurologists worldwide. She is an Associate Editor of Brain and was formerly Head of Department of Clinical Neurology (2005-2008), served on the MRC Neurosciences and Mental Health Board (2004-2008), and was President of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (2001-2004). She has spent over 35 years working on autoantibodies to specific receptors, ion channels and related proteins in neurological diseases.