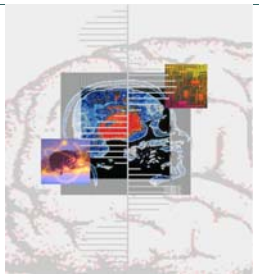

Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

The Neuro-Tribune

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New Imaging System

Cedars-Sinai Medical System just installed the new Direct Five Imaging System.

The new system can store more studies, such as MRIs of the brain, allowing the studies to be kept on the system longer than with the previous system.

Skateboarding: A Skull Fracture and a Hematoma

In August 2004 Nicolas Hillman, 18, arrived at Cedars-Sinai's ICU. He had been skateboarding down a steep hill, lost control and the next thing he knew, he was waking up in the emergency room.

An MDNSI neurosurgeon removed a blood clot, sealed off a blood vessel that was bleeding and repaired Nicolas' skull fracture.

For Nicolas' story and his recuperation, please go to www.csmc.edu/mdnsi, and then to "In the News".

MDNSI Continues to Grow to Serve Our Patients

With eight neurosurgeons, a pediatric neurosurgeon and two neuro-oncologists, the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute continues to grow to better serve our patients. Nine nurses and nurse practitioners work closely with the physicians to ensure the highest quality of care for MDNSI patients, while a support staff of more than 25 dedicated management assistants and specialists support the medical team.

Research is an integral part of the Institute. In fact, one of the MDNSI's major strengths is the ability to translate leading edge research into novel and effective treatments for our patients as soon as safely possible. More than 20 researchers, of whom a dozen have PhDs or MDs, comprise research programs in the following areas: Clinical, Tumor Immunology, Blood-Brain Barrier Drug Delivery, Molecular Discovery, and Biotechnology and Nanotechnology.

In the past year, MDNSI researchers published or presented at conferences more than two dozens papers, several of which were featured on the cover of prestigious medical journals, including *Cancer Research.*

With six clinical protocols currently on-going at the Institute, Director **Keith L. Black**, MD, plans to expand the close collaboration between the research and clinical sides of the Institute. The goal is to hire four or five new research nurses who will focus on handling an increased number of patients participating in a broader range of protocols, while ensuring and maintaining the current high level of patient satisfaction and care.

For more information, please visit the MDNSI website at www.csmc.edu/mdnsi or call (310) 423-7900.

Outside Scan Review: A Second Look

Wherever you live, you can now take advantage of the expertise of Dr. Keith Black and the entire MDNSI team by submitting your scans via your primary physician to our Outside Scan Review Program.

Once we receive the scans and a $50 administrative fee, Dr. Black, in conjunction with our team of neurosurgeons and physicians, will analyze them and send your primary physician, with a copy sent to you, a basic review and his educational suggestions within 3 weeks. We wish we could respond more rapidly, but great care is given to each scan and the volume is high.

For more information, please call (310) 423-7900 or visit our website at www.csmc.edu/mdnsi.

To subscribe to the e-mail version of *The Neuro-Tribune*, please e-mail a request to csnsi@csmc.edu.

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Expanded Clinic Hours

Clinic hours have been expanded, with earlier and later appointments now available with certain physicians. Appointments are now offered as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 4:30 p.m. The clinic is also open Friday afternoons for appointments with certain physicians.

Volunteer Research Scan Review Program:

A new program at the MDNSI offers patients who are interested in participating in clinical trials a more streamlined process to determine if they qualify for any current clinical trials.

Patients should first telephone the Institute at (310) 423-7900 and ask for the Volunteer Research Scan Review Program. You will then need to provide your name, address and a telephone number. A registered nurse will then, if you appear to pre-qualify for a trial, send you information on our trials and ask you to submit your scans for an evaluation to determine if you qualify for an MDNSI clinical trial.

From Bench to Bedside: Research Protocols

The MDNSI continues to seek to translate the newest innovations and research into treatments for our patients. Our new intraoperative MRI (iMRI) allows for real-time imaging of the brain during certain procedures, greatly increasing the accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness of certain types of surgical procedures.

MDNSI researchers also submitted three grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health on October 1 as part of our quest to continue to improve patient care and offer the newest treatments to our patients.

MDNSI researchers are also pursuing several clinical trials, including investigating the affect of glutamate, which is highly toxic to normal cells, on tumor cell growth. In animal models, glutamate appears to increase tumor growth. It is possible that inhibiting glutamate secretion may slow down tumor growth. Riluzole, which has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) blocks glutamate release. The MDNSI team has developed a clinical protocol to administer Riluzole to patients with recurrent glioblastoma multiforme and anaplastic astrocytoma (AA) to determine its effects on tumor growth and survival. It is speculated that Riluzole will curb tumor progression and growth. If so, it holds great promise for treating brain tumors, especially the most aggressive forms, such as GBM and AA.

Current MDNSI clinical trials include the following:

- Phase I Trial of Riluzole in Recurrent or Progressive Anaplastic Astrocytoma and Glioblastoma Multiforme
- Phase I Trial of Intracranial Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy for Malignant Glioma
- Phase I Study of Gefitinib and Rapamycin in Patients with Recurrent or Progressive Glioblastoma Multiforme
- Phase I Study of Pioglitazone and Isotretinoin in Patients with Recurrent or Progressive Malignant Gliomas
- Pilot Study of Intratumoral Carboplatin Levels in Patients with High-Grade Gliomas and Brain Metasteses.
- Pilot Study of Bevacizamab for Primary Brain Tumors

For more information, please visit the MDNSI website at www.csmc.edu/mdnsi or call (310) 423-7900.

Neuro-Facts by Neil

Mad as a Hatter!

Lewis Carrol appears to have been right when he created his "Mad Hatter" in *Alice in* Wonderland. Mental disorder was once very common among British hat makers. We now know that their brains were unknowingly slowly poisoned by the hat making procedure they used which involved wetting the brims of mercury-laden felt hats with their lips.