

McMaster Pituitary Day

April 10th, 2026



Hosted By:

Divisions of Neurosurgery and Endocrinology & Metabolism

Lakeview by Carmen's
180 Van Wagners Beach Road
Hamilton, ON



This Event is Open to:

Physicians and Skull Base Surgeons, Trainees, and Other Healthcare Professionals practicing in Endocrinology, Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology, Radiation Oncology, Neuroradiology, Neuro-Ophthalmology

Learning Objectives Include:

- 1) Discuss updates on the WHO classifications of pituitary tumours
- 2) Review pituitary anatomy and pathologies
- 3) Discuss advancements in management and treatment of pituitary disease
- 4) Understand the importance and the intricacies of a multidisciplinary approach to management of patients with pituitary disease
- 5) Review and discuss pertinent patient cases, potential complications and management strategies

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9am - 4pm



INTRODUCTION & WELCOME 09:00 - 09:10

SESSION 1 09:10 - 10:30 Moderator: Dr. Kesava Reddy

- Update on the medical management of functional pituitary tumours
Dr. William Harper
- Reconstruction techniques in pituitary surgery
Dr. Itai Margulis
- Giant pituitary tumours: considerations & management
Dr. Saira Alli

-BREAK-

SESSION 2 10:45 - 11:45 Moderator: Dr. Almunder Algird

- Surgical management of functional pituitary tumours
Dr. Alberto Di Somma

-LUNCH-

SESSION 3 12:30 - 13:30 Moderator: Dr. Kesava Reddy

- Management of craniopharyngiomas
Dr. Amin Kassam

SESSION 4 13:30 - 14:30 Moderator: Dr. Ally Prebtani

- Multidisciplinary case discussions
Dr. Carlos Escudero, Dr. Itai Margulis & Dr. Frederic Van Havenbergh

-BREAK-

SESSION 5 14:45 - 15:45 Moderator: Dr. William Harper

- Neuro-ophthalmic manifestations of sellar and parasellar lesions
Dr. Amadeo Rodriguez
- Pain management of pituitary patients: A chapter to write
Dr. Marie-Eve Domingue

CLOSING REMARKS 16:00

SPEAKERS

Dr. William Harper

Dr. William Harper is an Endocrinologist, General Internist and Associate Professor of Medicine at McMaster University, and Staff Physician at Hamilton Health Sciences since 2002. His clinical practice has included diabetes, endocrinology, general medicine and medical assistance in dying (MAiD). He has been involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, clinical research trials, clinical guideline development, medical licensing adjudication, as well as university and hospital administration through various stages of his career. His primary motivation in all these endeavours has been to focus on decision-making through uncertainty both in the clinical realm as well as in organizational structures. His interests include applying convexity and game theoretical equilibrium strategies to problems with existential risk including the diversity of academic hierarchies and clinical areas of uncertainty such as MAiD, pandemic preparedness, and contemporary Transgender care.

Dr. Itai Margulis

Dr. Itai Margulis grew up in Haifa, Israel, and completed his residency training in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Technion University. He subsequently pursued advanced subspecialty training with a clinical fellowship in rhinology and skull base surgery at Rabin Medical Center.

Dr. Margulis is currently continuing his fellowship training at McMaster University, further refining his expertise in complex sinonasal and skull base conditions. Following completion of his training, he plans to return to Israel to practice as a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at Carmel Medical Center, where he aims to contribute to both patient care and the advancement of the field.

Dr. Saira Alli

Dr. Saira Alli is a neurosurgeon at Unity Health Toronto, based at St. Michael's Hospital, with a clinical focus on skull base and brain tumour surgery. She earned her medical degree from Imperial College London and began her neurosurgical training in the United Kingdom before moving to Canada. Dr. Alli completed a PhD at the University of Toronto, followed by neurosurgery residency training and a fellowship in advanced endoscopic and open skull base surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Her practice emphasizes minimally invasive techniques and precision approaches to complex cranial conditions, and her research interests include innovative therapies for metastatic and rare skull base tumours.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Alberto Di Somma

Dr. Alberto Di Somma, MD, PhD, FEBNS, is a board-certified neurosurgeon at Hospital Clínic de Barcelona and Associate Professor of Human Anatomy at the University of Barcelona. He completed his PhD in Translational Medicine with international distinction and is an active researcher at IDIBAPS, with research accreditation (AQU Catalunya, Agregat level). Dr. Di Somma specializes in skull base surgery, with a particular focus on minimally invasive endoscopic approaches, including transorbital and endonasal techniques. His research is centered on surgical neuroanatomy, quantitative assessment of surgical corridors, and the development of innovative technologies for minimally invasive brain surgery. He co-leads the anatomical research line at the Laboratory of Surgical NeuroAnatomy (LSNA) and serves as Secretary of the Endoscopic Transorbital Society (ETOS). Dr. Di Somma has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and is actively involved in international teaching, training programs, and collaborative clinical research in skull base and pituitary surgery.

Dr. Amin Kassam

Dr. Amin Kassam is an internationally recognized neurosurgeon known for pioneering minimally invasive and endonasal skull base surgical techniques. He currently serves as Chairman of Neurosciences at the Advanced Neurosciences Center in the Chicago area, where he leads a global destination program for complex brain and spine care. Over a career spanning more than two decades, Dr. Kassam has led multiple major neurosurgical programs, including serving as Chair of Neurological Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and has been a key innovator in surgical technologies such as expanded endonasal approaches, brain mapping, and optical robotics. He has authored hundreds of peer-reviewed publications, delivered lectures worldwide, and is widely regarded as a leader in advancing both neurosurgical technique and patient-centered care.

Dr. Carlos Escudero

Dr. Carlos Escudero completed his medical degree at King's College London before returning to Canada to pursue his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Ottawa. He is currently a PGY-4 trainee in Adult Endocrinology, where he is developing advanced clinical expertise in the management of complex endocrine disorders.

Dr. Escudero has a particular interest in diabetes and metabolic disease, with a growing focus on emerging technologies in the management of type 1 diabetes. He plans to further pursue research in this area, with the goal of improving patient outcomes through innovation in diabetes care.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Frederic Van Havenbergh

Dr. Frederic Van Havenbergh is currently completing a clinical fellowship in minimally invasive and skull base surgery at McMaster University. Dr. Van Havenbergh was born and raised near Antwerp Belgium where he completed his medical education and neurosurgical training at the University of Leuven. He has gained international experience through elective programs in New Zealand and South Africa which allowed him exposure to diverse healthcare systems and perspectives on medical practice. After completing his fellowship at McMaster, he will return to be a part of the skull base team in Antwerp.

Dr. Amadeo Rodriguez

Dr. Amadeo Rodriguez is a neuro-ophthalmologist based in Hamilton, Ontario, with appointments at McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. He earned his medical degree from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina and completed his ophthalmology residency in Buenos Aires, followed by subspecialty fellowship training in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Rodriguez joined McMaster University in 2008 and holds an academic appointment as Associate Professor, with cross-disciplinary involvement in ophthalmology, neurology, and neurosurgery education. His clinical and research work focuses on complex neuro-ophthalmic disorders.

Dr. Marie-Eve Domingue

Dr. Marie-Eve Domingue completed her medical and endocrinology training at the University of Sherbrooke, followed by a fellowship in the medical management of pituitary disease at the University of Louvain in Brussels, Belgium, under the supervision of Professor Dominique Maiter (2012–2013). She has since been based at CHU de Québec–Université Laval, where her clinical practice focuses on pituitary disorders and she actively participates in the pituitary tumor board. Dr. Domingue is also deeply involved in medical education, serving as co-director of the endocrine system course and as Program Director of the Endocrinology Residency Program.

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