



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

February 3, 2014

Written by John Ward

Jeff Pearce led our club in singing O Canada. John Ward gave the invocation.

Guests

Kevin Evans, a past member of our club, says he would likely join our club again.

Heather Pearce, wife of Jeff, was in attendance.

Dr. Clara van Karnebeek was our speaker.

Sergeant-At-Arms – Michael Schelhaas

Bob Nowell won the ticket draw and also drew the lucky Ace of Spades. Next meeting we start with a brand new deck of cards.



- Many members contributed to the club's coffers by paying towards happy and sads. The happys included the Seahawks Super Bowl win, the Foundation Dinner, Joy Jones going to India for the polio eradication campaign, and Bob and Marilynne Nowell's 41st wedding anniversary.
- The Homeless Soccer event organizers have asked our club to provide 240 servings of water, oranges and power bars. Shoppers Drug Mart could be approached to donate power bars and Bob McKilligan said he may be able to get oranges.
- The Foundation Dinner was successful. \$20,000.00 was raised for the Foundation.
- The Wine Festival had only 10% returnees over the previous year. Robert Crozier is concerned. Future meetings will determine if our effort is worth it.
- Fred Sverre is organizing the Rotary Wheel gardening for 10:00 AM, Friday, February 21. Volunteers are needed.

Program



Bob Nowell introduced our speaker, Dr. Clara van Karnebeek. Dr. van Karnebeek obtained her PhD in the genetics of intellectual disability in Amsterdam, followed by a residency in pediatrics there, and 2 years of work in Tanzania, Africa, for a flying medical service. Five years ago she moved with her family to Vancouver for a fellowship in biochemical genetics (and serious skiing). She currently works as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Biochemical Diseases at BC Children's Hospital and as a scientist in the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at UBC. In 2011 she established the Treatable Intellectual Disability Endeavour in BC to develop new treatments and enhance early diagnosis of genetic disorders in children with developmental disabilities and autism.

Collaborative medicine provides great value to solve treatable intellectual disability disorders. Initiatives such as the TIDE Complex Diagnostic Clinic (TCDC), unite the expertise of over 25 clinical and laboratory specialists to provide a causal diagnosis for children with complex neurologic conditions who remain a mystery despite endless clinic visits and the "million dollar" work up. The TCDC is meticulously prepared and run: during one morning, 3 to 4 patients are each evaluated by several specialists who participate in the clinic on a rotational basis. The children's cases are then discussed during multidisciplinary rounds to formulate a differential diagnosis and plan for investigations.

In a manuscript recently submitted by the TCDC team for publication in the journal Genetics in Medicine, the clinic reports their experience with 7 clinics held over the first 16 months since its establishment in 2011. For the 24 children assessed in these clinics (seen by up to 10 specialist services prior to the TCDC), the diagnostic yield was higher than expected with confirmed and working diagnoses in 9 (38%) and 11 (46%) children respectively. Cost savings resulted from fewer trips to the hospital and fewer tests resulting from more streamlined evaluations.

Positive feedback was received from families and medical professionals alike. One mother notes "Understanding the gene that is responsible for my son's condition, as a result of coming to the Clinic, is a huge relief. I can finally stop blaming myself for something I may have done while I was pregnant."

Quotes from participating specialists include: "It would have taken many months to get an opinion from each specialist. In the Complex Clinic, after a few hours, there is a good plan." And, "the clinic is collectively making diagnoses that we would likely not otherwise have been able to do working alone."

Stories of treatable diagnostics are told by the mothers of children with epilepsy, autism and many other abnormal neurological functional conditions are told at www.tidebc.org. It is wished that TIDE BC can go Canada wide and global to empower children to have productive lives. Money is needed to develop new treatments and to expand the service.



John Stuart thanked the speaker, and presented the coveted "immunization certificate".

Adjournment

David Spears conducted the toast to Rotary International. Neil Creighton initiated the Four Way Test. Hearing there was nothing further for the “Good of Rotary”; acting President David adjourned the meeting and wished one and all a “Good Rotary Week”.

Future Meetings / Key Dates:

- Feb 10 No Meeting – BC Family Day statutory holiday
- Feb 17 New York and British Columbia Experiences in the Securities Industry – Neil Cave, BC Securities Commission
- Feb 24 Club Assembly / Fellowship Evening
- Mar 3 Keeping Seniors at Home – Heather Dunsford, Administrator, North Shore Keep Well Society
- Mar 10 “Ethical Jewelry” for Masai Tribe Community Purposes – Susan Bibbing, Lotus Land Imports
- Mar 17 St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, An Evening of Irish Fellowship – Partner Evening
- Mar 24 New Women’s Recovery House on the North Shore – Brenda Plant, Executive Director, Turning Point Recovery Society

