

# **Dr. Michael Fehlings**

**Neurosurgeon, Krembil Neuroscience Centre at University Health Network**

Toronto, ON, CA

Combining an expertise in complex spinal surgery with a innovative research program discovering new treatments for spinal cord injury

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## **Biography**

Dr. Fehlings received his MD from the University of Toronto in 1983. Following a surgical internship at Queen's University in 1983-84, Dr. Fehlings entered the University of Toronto Neurosurgical Training Program in 1984. During his residency, Dr. Fehlings worked towards and received his Ph.D. in 1989 in the Institute of Medical Sciences for his work on experimental spinal cord injury. Dr. Fehlings became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1990 and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 2006. In 1991, he undertook a post-doctoral research fellowship at NYU Medical Center under Dr. Wise Young. This was followed by a clinical spine fellowship under Dr. P. Cooper at NYU. Dr. Fehlings joined the Neurosurgical Staff at the Toronto Western Hospital (now The Krembil Research Institute) in 1992. He is currently Professor in the Department of Surgery, full member of the Institute of Medical Sciences School of Graduate Studies, a Scholar in the McLaughlin Centre of Molecular Medicine, a Scientist in the McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine, a Senior Scientist at the Krembil Research Institute, Director of the University of Toronto Neuroscience Program, Co-Director of the University of Toronto Spine Program, Director of the Spinal Program at the Krembil Research Institute, Medical Director of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre at the University Health Network and Krembil Chair in Neural Repair and Regeneration. His main clinical interests are in spinal neurosurgery, and his research focus is in molecular mechanisms underlying spinal cord injury.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Advanced Medical Equipment, Research, Health Care - Services, Health Care - Providers, Health Care - Facilities, Health and Wellness, Training and Development

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Neuroscience, Clinical Research, Molecular Biology, Clinical Trials, Biotechnology, Confocal Microscopy, Spine, Stem Cells, Cerebral Palsy, Riluzole, Decompression Surgery, Neurosurgery

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## **Affiliations**

University of Toronto, Department of Surgery : Professor, Institute of Medical Sciences School of Graduate Studies : Full Member, McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine : Scientist, Toronto Western Research Institute : Senior Scientist, University of Toronto : Director, Neuroscience Program, University of Toronto : Co-Director, Spine Program, Toronto Western Hospital : Director, Spinal Program, Krembil Chair in Neural Repair and Regeneration, Vice Chair, Research, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto

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## **Event Appearances**

## **Current surgical practice for traumatic spinal cord injury in Canada**

2014 Combined Spine Conference

## **Neuroprotection of the Injured Spinal Cord: Novel Translational Strategies**

5th National Spinal Cord Injury Conference

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### **Education**

#### **University of Toronto**

Ph.D. Neuroscience

#### **University of Toronto**

MD Medicine

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### **Accomplishments**

#### **Olivecrona Award**

The top international honour for neurosurgeons and neuroscientists, awarded by the Nobel Institute at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm

#### **Leon Wiltse Award**

Awarded by the North American Spine Society for excellence in leadership and clinical research in spine care

#### **Gold Medal in Surgery**

Awarded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

#### **Lister Award in Surgical Research**

Awarded to an investigator who has shown outstanding and continuing productivity of international stature as evidenced by research publications, grants held, students trained and other evidence of stature of the work produced.

#### **Reeve-Irvine Research Medal in Spinal Cord Injury**

The Reeve-Irvine Research Medal recognizes an individual, or individuals, who have made highly meritorious scientific contributions in the area of spinal cord repair, and whose research has stood the test of time and scrutiny.

#### **Golden Axon Leadership Award**

The Golden Axon Award of the Foundation is meant to highlight world-class leadership in neuroscience. The award is presented to individuals who have reached out to their local communities and helped both the Brain Mapping Foundation and SBMT with their mission, which in short is advancing multidisciplinary neuroscience research.

#### **Mac Keith Basic Science Lectureship Award**

For significant contributions to the basic science of cerebral palsy and childhood onset disabilities

**Served as the 40th President of the Cervical Spine Research Society (CSRS)**

Only Canadian to do so.

**CSRS Presidential Medallion**

For outstanding leadership and contributions to cervical spine research

**Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal**

Created in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, this commemorative medal served to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60 000 deserving Canadians were recognized.

**H. Richard Winn Prize from the Society of Neurological Surgeons**

The purpose of this international award is to encourage research in the neurosciences and to recognize outstanding, continuous commitment to research in the neurosciences by a neurological surgeon.

**Jonas Salk Award for Scientific Achievements from the March of Dimes Canada**

The Jonas Salk Award is presented annually to a Canadian scientist, physician or researcher who has made a new and outstanding contribution in science or medicine to prevent, alleviate or eliminate a physical disability.

**Henry Farfan Award from the North American Spine Society**

To recognize outstanding contributions in spine related basic science research.

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