In 1983, 18-year-old Barbara Turnbull was shot in the neck during a robbery in a suburban Toronto convenience store. Dr. Charles Tator treated Barbara following this senseless act of violence that left her paralyzed from the neck down. Barbara’s struggle to survive the devastating injury and adjust to life as a quadriplegic captured the hearts and minds of Canadians and people from around the world. Through sheer determination, will and courage, Barbara went on to pursue an education in journalism at the University of Arizona. Today, she is a reporter for the Toronto Star. Barbara’s own story was published in 1997 in her autobiography “Looking in the Mirror” and in 2013, Barbara wrote an ebook “What I know: Lessons from my 30 years as a quadraplegic” – a candid, moving and inspiring book about acceptance and turning adversity into activism.

Barbara is founder of the Barbara Turnbull Foundation, which funds Canadian research into neuroscience and, especially, treatment of spinal cord injuries. In 2001, her Foundation created the Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research. This is a major award of $50,000 which is given annually, in conjunction with NeuroScience/Brain Canada and administered by the Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), to the researcher who scores the highest ranking in CIHR’s peer-reviewed grant approval process. Today we celebrate the announcement and presentation of this prestigious award to the 2013 and 2014 award recipients.

Barbara received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Toronto in 2007, an honorary doctorate of laws from York University in 2012 and has also received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Dr. Charles Tator's legacy includes establishing the first dedicated spinal cord injury unit in Ontario, providing excellence in the care of individuals with spinal cord injury, directing an internationally acclaimed basic and clinical research program in this field, leading efforts at preventing brain and spinal injuries and also as a teacher and mentor to countless neurosurgeons and researchers. Among his many awards, Dr. Tator has received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Brain Injury Coalition (1997) and the Jonas Salk Award (2001) -- a lifetime achievement award from the March of Dimes. In addition, Dr. Tator was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada (2001), inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame (2003) and inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (2009).

The Charles H. Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury honours these two individuals for their enormous contribution, energy and drive in the area of spinal cord injury research.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014

12:00  DOORS OPEN / COFFEE

12:30  WELCOMING REMARKS

Michael Fehlings, Vice Chair Research, Dept Surgery, UT
Albert Yee, Co-Director, Spine Program, Univ. of Toronto
Charles H. Tator, CM, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS,
University of Toronto and University Health Network

12:40  REPAIR AND REGENERATION OF THE INJURED SPINAL CORD: NEURAL STEM CELLS AND BIOENGINEERED STRATEGIES

Michael G. Fehlings MD PhD FRCSC FACS FCAHS FRSC
University of Toronto and University Health Network

1:00  TARGETING INHIBITORY MOLECULES AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY

Andrea Mothe, PhD
Toronto Western Research Institute, University Health Network

1:20  PROBING DIVERSITY WITHIN GENETICALLY-DEFINED INTERNEURONAL POPULATIONS IN THE MAMMALIAN SPINAL CORD

Simon Gosgnach, PhD
University of Alberta

1:40  BRAIN MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROLLED FUNCTIONAL ELECTRICAL STIMULATION THERAPY

Milos Popovic, PhD, PEng
University of Toronto and University Health Network

2:00  MID-AFTERNOON BREAK / REFRESHMENTS

2:20  BARBARA TURNBULL AWARD FOR SPINAL CORD RESEARCH 2013 AND 2014

Nathalie Gendron, Assistant Director, CIHR-INMHA
Inez Jabalpurwala, President and CEO, Brain Canada
Barbara Turnbull, President, The Barbara Turnbull Foundation for Spinal Cord Research

2:40  BRAINSTEM CONTROL OF LOCOMOTION

Frédéric Bretzner, PhD
Laval University

3:00  HOPE FOR ALLEVIATING CHRONIC PAIN IN SPINAL CORD INJURY PATIENTS

Yves De Koninck, PhD
Laval University

3:20  TARGETING THE INJURED SPINAL CORD WITH NEURAL STEM CELLS

Molly Shoichet, PhD
University of Toronto

3:40  BREAK

4:00  KEYNOTE ADDRESS/CPIN DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: DECIPHERING NEURAL CIRCUITS CONTROLLING WALKING: MOVING FORWARD

Ole Kiehn, MD, Dr.Sci
Karolinska Institute

4:50  CLOSING REMARKS

Michael Fehlings, Vice Chair Research, Dept Surgery, UT
James Rutka, Chair, Dept of Surgery, University of Toronto

5:00  WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION
Giovanni Room, 2nd Floor, 89 Chestnut