

## Pediatric Program



### Program Summary/Overview:

There were some important changes in 2008 on the pediatric neurosurgery service. The most significant was no doubt the retirement of Dr. William Howes in May. Dr. McNeely has assumed the administrative responsibility of Division Head at the IWK Health Centre, and Dr. Walling has taken on an increased pediatric clinical load. Together, Dr. McNeely and Dr. Walling have ensured that there is continuous pediatric neurosurgery expertise available through subspecialty call coverage at the IWK Health Centre.

This past summer, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Michael Esser in the Division of Pediatric Neurology as the first William Dennis Pediatric Epilepsy Chair. We anticipate that his research efforts will shed light on the nature, causes and cures of epilepsy, while providing an opportunity to educate the public and reduce stigma associated with this neurological disorder.

In the clinic, we have been increasing the use of Telehealth in order facilitate follow-up of patients who would otherwise have to travel long distances to the IWK Health Centre. This is particularly helpful during the winter months when travel is sometimes more difficult.

In December, we were very pleased to use our newly renovated, state of the art, integrated operating room. Its dimensions are significantly larger than the previous OR, and the layout has been designed to suit our needs. The overhead camera included in the redesign will enhance the learning experience for our students and other learners. We anticipate that this new operating room should serve our patients very well for the next several years.