Department of Neurology

Neurology concerns itself with the diseases of brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles. An introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system is presented in the first-year neuroscience course by faculty from the Department of Neuroscience (http://neurosci.wustl.edu), with participation of faculty from the Department of Neurology (http://neuro.wustl.edu). A first-year selective titled Clinical Correlations in Neurosciences (FYSelect 5017) is available, which is an opportunity for interested students to shadow physicians in neuro-related fields and attend basic science or clinical conferences. Another first-year selective titled Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) in the Clinic and the Lab is also available, which is an opportunity for interested students to get an overview of the most exciting areas of AD clinical and science research. In the second year, the Department of Neurology presents the course Diseases of the Nervous System (Neurol 632) in conjunction with the departments of Pathology & Immunology (http://pathology.wustl.edu), Neurosurgery (http://neurosurgery.wustl.edu) and Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (http://ophthalmology.wustl.edu). The course emphasizes the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical manifestations and treatment of the major neurological and neurosurgical diseases. The department also participates in the Practice of Medicine course, providing lectures, demonstrations and teaching exercises with patients in neurological physical diagnosis.

For more information about the Department of Neurology and its thirteen divisions, please visit the department website.

Website: https://neuro.wustl.edu/education

Degrees & Requirements

While the Department of Neurology does not offer its own degree, some of the department’s courses are open to students in the MD and MSTP (MD/PhD) programs. Further information about the MD and MSTP degrees can be found in the Degrees & Programs Offered (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/medicine/degrees) section of this Bulletin.

Research

M35 Neurol 900

In the fourth year, opportunities exist for many varieties of advanced clinical or research experience.

Beau Ances, MD
Taylor Avenue Building Extension, 2nd Floor
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Neuroimaging of Neurodegenerative Disorders. Students can work in a neuroimaging laboratory that is focused on translational discovery of neuroimaging biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases. The laboratory focuses on the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND). We are investigating the effects of neurodegenerative diseases on brain network level using functional (blood oxygen level dependent imaging, arterial spin labeling), structural (volumetrics, diffusion tensor imaging), and metabolic (PET amyloid and tau). Multiple projects that involve bioengineering, neuroimaging, and infectious disease are available depending on the interest of the student.

Randall Bateman, MD
Biotechnology Center, Room 304
Phone: 314-747-7066

Central nervous system protein metabolism in aging and dementia. This research elective will expose the student to translational research in the study of Alzheimer's disease. The student will participate in multiple areas of the research including participant consent, enrollment, and admission to a research hospital unit. Lumbar catheter placement and CSF sample collection will be demonstrated. The student will participate in sample analysis including processing for mass spectrometry quantitation, ELISA, and western gel methods. Quantitation, analysis and modeling of the data will be taught in the context of data interpretation and study design.

Anne H. Cross, MD, and Laura Piccio, MD, PhD
McMillan, 3rd Floor
Phone: 314-747-4591 or 314-747-0405

Understanding interactions of the immune system with the central nervous system as it relates to multiple sclerosis and other neuroimmunological disorders. Our goal is to understand how immune cells cross the blood-brain barrier and initiate the cascade of events leading to lesions of multiple sclerosis. We are also funded to study the effects of diet and adipokines on neuroinflammation. Depending upon the time commitment of the student and their individual interests and goals, they will either assist with ongoing projects or be given a laboratory project on which to work. Projects may involve animal models for MS, cell culture or studies of human samples (CSF, blood, autopsied specimens). Interested students should contact Dr. Cross (crossa@neuro.wustl.edu) or Dr. Piccio (picciol@neuro.wustl.edu) several weeks in advance before signing up for this research to allow for sufficient planning.

Robert T. Naismith, MD
McMillan, Room 310B
Phone: 314-747-0432

Clinical Imaging Research in Multiple Sclerosis (8 weeks). The student will learn about neuroimaging, imaging analyses, data collection, data management, and clinical study endpoints in multiple sclerosis (MS). They will observe patient participants undergoing a detailed evaluation of disability measures, such as ambulation, symptom scales, cognition, vision, upper extremity function, etc. They will witness the entire process of image acquisition, processing, analyses, and data extraction. They...
will have the opportunity to interact with many people who are vital to the research, including research coordinators, imaging technologists, imaging physicists/chemists, and specialized research clinicians (i.e., neurocognitive and physical therapy research specialists).

The student will assist with hands-on clinical investigative research. They will gain an excellent appreciation of MS, from its pathophysiology within the central nervous system, to how it affects the neurological function of individuals. Through detailed and quantitative imaging analysis, the student will become very adept at analyzing brain MRI scans. They will mark and track lesions, determine their effects on clinical function, normal appearing white matter, cortex and gray-matter structures. They will become familiar with Amira Imaging Analysis Software, SPSS Statistical Analysis Software, SIENA Volume Analysis Software, and Matlab Imaging Analysis Software.

Steven E. Petersen, PhD
East Building, Room 2108
Phone: 314-362-3319
This lab is interested in brain organization and function, particularly for language, attention, and memory. Our main approaches to these issue is through functional MRI and large-scale network analysis.

Joel S. Perlmutter, MD
East Building, 2nd Floor
Phone: 314-362-6026
Pathophysiology of Movement Disorders. The lab is primarily interested in etiology, pathophysiology and treatment of basal ganglia disorders. We have several studies of PD. We investigate mechanisms of action of deep brain stimulation, a dramatic new treatment. These studies combine PET, cognitive testing and quantified measures of movement. We also test new drugs that might rescue injured nigrostriatal neurons (a model of PD). For these, we use PET to measure dopamine pathways and also quantify motor behavior. We also have an active program developing and validating neuroimaging biomarkers for PD and integrity of the nigrostriatal pathway that includes studies in people and animal models of PD. We have an active program combining a variety of approaches to develop biomarkers and investigate the pathophysiology of dementia associated with PD. We use PET to measure radioligand binding and sensorimotor processing in dystonia. We developed a new animal model of dystonia to investigate pharmacologic and physiologic changes. We use PET to investigate drug-mediated pathways in the brain and parse out the effects of selective dopaminergic agonists. We also are working to develop MR-based methods including DTI and resting-state functional connectivity to investigate brain mechanisms underlying PD and dystonia.

Brad A. Racette, MD
McMillan, 9th Floor
Phone: 314-362-5291
Our lab is primarily interested in environmental risk factors associated with Parkinson’s disease. We use a variety of techniques to study these risk factors, including traditional field epidemiology in which we evaluate workers exposed to metals in the U.S. and residents living near a smelter in South Africa, neuroimaging where we study the pathophysiology of toxin-mediated parkinsonism, geographic information systems research where we associate environmental toxin exposures with incident and prevalent Parkinson’s disease in the U.S. and Finland, and neuropathologic studies in manganese-exposed workers from South Africa. There are numerous opportunities available for students to be involved with any of these projects. Students will have some clinical exposure, as well, to familiarize them with pertinent clinical syndrome.

Marcus E. Raichle, MD
Neuro Imaging Laboratory – East Building, 2nd Floor
Phone: 314-362-6907
In vivo brain hemodynamic, metabolic and functional studies of human cognition and emotion using cyclotron-produced isotopes and emission tomography (PET) as well as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in humans. Refer also to the listing on this page for Steven E. Petersen, PhD.

Gregory Wu, MD, PhD
McMillan, 3rd Floor
Phone: 314-362-3293
Understanding how immune responses are generated that target the central nervous system. Specifically, studies on antigen presentation cell contributions to autoimmune animal models of multiple sclerosis. Our goal is to understand what cellular interactions are critical to the development of immune-mediated demyelination.

Faculty

Department Chair

David Holtzman, MD
Visit our website for more information about our faculty (https://neuro.wustl.edu/about-us/physician-faculty-directory) and their appointments.

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MD1 University of Kansas 1996

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MD University of Panjab 1980
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BS University of Pennsylvania 1993
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MS London School of Economics 1994

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MS Queen's University 2006  
BS Queen's University 2003  
MD Queen's University 2009  

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JD University of Texas Austin 1998  
MSSW University of Texas Austin 1993  
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MD Harvard University 2008  
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PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2006
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**David Veloso Lardizabal, MD**
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BS University of the Philippines 1987
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BS Yale University 1975
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PHD University of Alabama 2017  
BS Huazhong Agricultural U 2007  

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MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2004  
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MS Georgetown University 1988  
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Professor of Occupational Therapy
Professor of Physical Therapy
Professor of Radiology
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BE Northwestern University 1982
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MS Harvard University 2016
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BS University of MO Columbia 1998
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MS University of Tokyo 2005
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BS University of Kentucky 2005
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JD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1988
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MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1994
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MD University of Virginia 2001

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PHD Baylor College of Medicine 2006
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Courses

M35 Neurol 554 Neural Science
Neural Science is an intensive seven-week course that covers the structure, function and development of the nervous system as seen from molecular, cellular and systems-oriented perspectives. The emphasis is on the organization and function of the nervous system in health, but there is frequent reference to the clinical relevance of material presented. The course includes regular lectures, conference sessions and laboratories, plus a number of clinically oriented presentations and Special Topics sessions that address selected issues in greater depth. Computer-aided instructional programs, accessible from a variety of locations, provide auxiliary modes of self-paced learning and review. The midterm and final emphasize the core body of important facts and principles presented in lectures and laboratories. Limited space is available for non-medical students with instructor's permission. Non-medical students should register under the cross-listed number L41 Biol 554 (spring only).
Credit 109 units.

M35 Neurol 632 Diseases of the Nervous System
The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the diseases of the central and peripheral nervous systems, including their clinical manifestations, pathology, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy. The course includes reading assignments, lectures, laboratory sessions, conferences and clinical presentations.

Credit 53 units.

M35 Neurol 720 Neurology Clerkship
A full-time, four-week clerkship is provided on the neurology services at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Patients are assigned to students who evaluate and follow them with the resident staff and discuss them regularly in conferences with the senior neurological staff. Students also work in the neurology clinic under staff supervision and attend a series of lectures on neurosurgical problems.
Credit 154 units.

M35 Neurol 730 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clerkship
Clerkship in PM&R for third-year medical students provides an opportunity to gain basic knowledge and clinical skills in evaluation and management of a wide range of neurological and musculoskeletal diseases and conditions that require specialized rehabilitative medical and therapeutic care. Students spend two weeks on Spinal Cord Injury Unit (SCI) and two weeks on Brain Injury (BI) & Stroke Unit at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. Students are expected to be a part of the rehabilitation team, follow two to three patients, participate in daily morning rounds, participate in performing consults, attend team meetings and family conferences. Students are required to attend all PM&R curriculum lectures and conferences. On the first day of rotation, students meet with the PM&R program director to go over goals, objectives and schedules. Upon completion of the rotation, students are required to fill out the evaluation form to provide feedback regarding rotation experience.
Credit 154 units.

M35 Neurol 827 Neurology Sub-Internship for WUSM Students
This four-week elective will be customized to include inpatient and outpatient experiences desired by WU students who have completed the WU Neurology Clerkship. Students may choose this elective to further improve their neurology knowledge and skills. Students considering neurology as a career may also desire additional exposure to supplement their prior clerkship experience. The elective is split into two two-week rotations which may include: 1. Adult Inpatient General Service (with one clinic/week) 2. Adult Inpatient Stroke Service (with one clinic/week) 3. Adult Inpatient Consult Service (with one clinic/week) 4. Pediatric Neurology Consult Service (with one clinic/week) 5. Adult Neurology ICU (with one clinic/week) 6. Outpatient Clinics (with 5-10 clinics/week).

M35 Neurol 828 Neurology Sub-Internship for Visiting US Medical Students
This four-week elective for fourth-year visiting students from a U.S. medical school provides the option (space permitting) of four weeks of Adult Inpatient Service (Stroke for two weeks, General Neurology for two weeks), or two weeks on an Adult Inpatient Service and two weeks on the Adult Consult Service. Students on the inpatient service will function as a Sub-Intern under the supervision of their junior resident, chief resident, and attending physician. The student will also attend weekly clinical
conferences and a weekly outpatient clinic experience. This elective is suitable for visiting fourth-year students interested in neurology, who wish to improve their neurology knowledge and skills.

M35 Neurol 830 Neuro-Oncology
Provide an outpatient-oriented combined pediatric and adult neuro-oncology experience for fourth-year medical students. 1. Attend multidisciplinary adult and pediatric neuro-oncology clinics and case conferences (tumor boards); 2. Attend adult and pediatric radiation oncology clinics; 3. Attend neuropathology brain tumor review; 4. Participate in subspecialty brain tumor clinics; 5. Attend monthly brain tumor research conferences.

M35 Neurol 851 Clinical Aspects of Aging and Dementia
This elective provides the opportunity to learn about clinical research and clinical care in health brain aging and dementia. Students should contact the course directors to discuss this, as this elective is customized based on student interests. This can be a two-week or four-week elective. Students can gain proficiency in interviewing techniques and in the neurologic examination of the geriatric patient, and be introduced to neuropsychology, neuropsychiatry, biomarkers, neuroimaging, genetics, and other biomedical procedures important in the diagnostic evaluation of older adults. The Knight ADRC is an interdisciplinary group, so students have the opportunity to interact with physicians, nurse clinicians, psychologists and social workers, and to explore the neuropsychology, neuropsychiatry, biomarkers, neuroimaging, genetics, and other biomedical procedures used in the diagnosis of dementing disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementias, cerebrovascular disorders, and affective disorders.

M35 Neurol 859 Neonatal Neurology
The Neonatal Neurology elective will consist of a combination of inpatient and outpatient experiences designed to provide medical students with comprehensive exposure to the field. Through the rotation, students will actively participate in all aspects of patient care, acquiring the knowledge and skill necessary to effectively manage infants with neurological disorders, including encephalopathy, stroke, seizures, hypotonia, intraventricular hemorrhage, and periventricular leukomalacia, among others. Clinical activities will be tailored to fit the interests and goals of the individual student and include a combination of inpatient and outpatient exposures. Inpatient activities will occur in the St. Louis Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Unit as part of the Neonatal Neurology Consultation service. Outpatient activities will occur in the St. Louis Children's Hospital Outpatient Clinics. Students will also attend educational conferences specific to the field during the rotation, including Neonatal Neurology Clinical Conference and Neonatal Neuroradiology Conference.

M35 Neurol 860 Pediatric Neurology
The senior elective experience in child neurology is designed to adapt to the individual goals and objectives of students. The elective takes place in two 2-week blocks that occur among five possible venues as chosen by the student: (1) Outpatient clinics, (2) Inpatient ward service, (3) Inpatient general consult service, (4) NICU consult service, and (5) Video EEG (VEEG) monitoring service. The combination of services and experiences will be arranged directly between the student and the course director prior to beginning the rotation. In the outpatient clinics, students will rotate between a variety of subspecialties and work with a variety of attendings in order to experience the breadth of outpatient pediatric neurology. Students rotating on the inpatient ward service will have a different role than the third-year student on pediatrics. The fourth-year student will focus solely on neurology patients and work closely with the pediatric neurology resident to develop neurology-specific care plans. No call or weekend duties will be expected on this rotation. On the general consult services, students will work with the consult attending and pediatric neurology residents on that team to see consults in the PICU, CICU, ER, and other hospital floors. The NICU consult team focuses on infants in the NICU. Students rotating on the VEEG monitoring service will focus on learning the indications and uses of VEEG and basic EEG reading skills. All students choosing a pediatric neurology elective will arrange their specific schedule with the course director beforehand.

M35 Neurol 861 Neurology/Neurosurgery ICU
The student will be integrated into the Critical Care Team that provides care in the Neurology/Neurosurgery ICU. Diseases frequently encountered include intracerebral hemorrhage, head trauma, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and stroke. The student will follow patients, participate in rounds and perform some procedures under supervision. Didactic sessions will be provided as conferences or lectures from the ICU attending.

M35 Neurol 865 Adult and Pediatric Epilepsy
Students will learn how epileptologists diagnose and manage epilepsy in adults and children. They will learn how to use the history and physical exam and laboratory studies such as EEG, MRI, PET, and SPECT to diagnose and manage patients with new onset epilepsy, established epilepsy, and medically intractable epilepsy. They will become familiar with the medical management of epilepsy as well as the treatment options for medically intractable epilepsy including surgery, the vagus nerve stimulator, and the ketogenic diet. They will also learn how to manage the co-morbid conditions that accompany epilepsy such as depression, behavioral problems, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, and non-epileptic events. Students will accomplish these goals by attending epilepsy clinics and rounding on the inpatient epilepsy service with the epilepsy team at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children’s Hospital. They will attend the Adult Epilepsy Conference, the Pediatric Epilepsy Conference, and Neurology Grand Rounds. Students will also have the opportunity to observe epilepsy surgery if they wish. They will have the option to present one 15-30 minute talk on a topic relevant to epilepsy.

M35 Neurol 872 MS Center/Outpatient - Missouri Baptist
Students will develop their skills in taking histories and performing neurological examinations on patients with multiple sclerosis under direct supervision of multiple sclerosis specialists. Localization of neurological findings and symptoms to the neuro-axis will be emphasized. A major goal for the students will be to increase the understanding of comprehensive patient management including disease treatment, symptom management, adjunctive therapy services, and psychosocial issues. The outpatient rotation will be four weeks at The MS Center for Innovations in Care at Missouri Baptist Medical Center with Dr. Barry Singer and Dr. Mark Tullman. An additional goal for students will be to understand process of clinical research and translation into approved therapies. The center has been a leader in clinical trial development of therapeutics that have been or will soon be FDA-approved as new medications for multiple sclerosis.
M35 Neurol 900 Research Elective - Neurology
Research opportunities may be available. If interested, please contact the Department of Neurology.