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. 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 13 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
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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 and other neurodegenerative diseases. The student will participate in multiple areas of the research including participant recruitment, consent, enrollment, and admission to a research hospital unit. Lumbar puncture for CSF sample collection, blood collection, and intravenous labeling methods will be demonstrated and taught. 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
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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
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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
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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
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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/Faculty) and their appointments.

A

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James S McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience in
Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery (Neuropsychology)
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Professor of Neuroscience
Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences
Professor of Radiology
BA University of Montana Missoula 1974
PHD California Institute Technolo 1982
Daniel Phillips, MD, BE
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1980
BS Northwestern University 1976
BE Northwestern University 1982
Chia Ling Phuah, MD, MS, MS1
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Cambridge University 2006
BS Cambridge University 2003
MS Harvard University 2016
MS1 Cambridge University 2007
Laura Piccio, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Milan 1997
Stephanie K Powell, PHD, MS  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS University of Notre Dame 1994  
PHD Univ of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2004  
MS Univ of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2000

William John Powers, MD  
Adjunct Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Cornell University 1975  
BA Dartmouth College 1971

Brad Alan Racette, MD  
Robert Allan Finke Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
Executive Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, Department of Neurology  
MD Northwestern University 1992  
BA Princeton University 1988

David Martin Reisler, M PH, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA Harvard University 1957  
M PH Johns Hopkns University Medc 1971  
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1961

Dave A Rengachary, MD  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA Northwestern University 1996  
MD Northwestern University 2000

Terri L Riutcel, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS University of MO Columbia 1991  
MD Vanderbilt University 1995

Catherine M Roe, PHD, MA  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
PHD Southern Illinois University 1992  
MA Southern Illinois University 1990  
BA Purdue University 1986

James R Rohrbaugh, MD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
MD Ohio State University 1974  
BA Yale University 1971

Rimma Ruvinskaya, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA School Not Listed 1979  
MD Leningrad Inst of Peds Med 1985

Robin C Ryther, MD, PHD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Vanderbilt University 2006  
BS University of MO Columbia 1998  
PHD Vanderbilt University 2004

Chihiro Sato, MS, PHD  
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)  
MS University of Tokyo 2005  
PHD University of Tokyo 2008  
BS University of Tokyo 2003

Andrew David Sauerbeck, PHD  
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS University of Kentucky 2005  
PHD University of Kentucky 2011

Anneliese M Schaefer, JD, BBA, PHD  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
JD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1988  
BBA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1985  
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2001

Suzanne E. Schindler, PHD, MD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2008  
BS Millsaps College 1999  
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2008

Kathleen Marie Schoch, PHD  
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)  
PHD University of Kentucky 2013  
BS Bradley University 2007

Earl R Schultz, MD  
Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry  
BA Southeast Missouri St Univers 1952  
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1955  
BS University of Missouri 1953

Christian T Sheline, PHD  
Adjunct Research Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA Dartmouth College 1983  
PHD University of California 1989

Gordon L Shulman, MS, PHD  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA Yale University 1975  
MS University of Oregon 1977  
PHD University of Oregon 1979

Todd B Silverman  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  

Barry A. Singer  
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Christopher D Smyser, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Associate Professor of Radiology  
BS University of Iowa 1998  
MD University of Iowa 2004

Barbara Joy Snider, PHD, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Northwestern University 1979
PHD University of Texas Southwest 1989
MD University of Texas Southwest 1989

Richard Brian Sommerville, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Columbia University 2005
BS Harvard University 1999

Tara V. Spevack, MS, PHD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS McGill University 1987
MS University of Florida 1994
PHD University of Florida 1997

Jeremy Fuller Strain, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
BS University of Texas Arlington 2009
PHD University of Texas Arlington 2015

Sandra L Tate, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Southern Illinois University 1987

Mengesha A Teshome, MD
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Addis Ababa University 1989

Kwee L Thio, MD, PHD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Neuroscience
Professor of Pediatrics
BS Brown University 1984
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1992
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1992

Jeffrey B. Titus, MA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MA University of Northern Colora 1999
BS Evangel College 1997
PHD Ball State University 2002

Stuart Ramm Tomko, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Davidson College 2005
MD Baylor College of Medicine 2010

Norman Edwin Trevathan III, MS, MD
Adjunct Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS David Lipscomb University 1977
MS Emory University 1982
MD Emory University 1982

Angela M Tripp
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Keisuke Ueda, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (Pending Executive Faculty Approval) (primary appointment)
MD Keio University 2006

Jason Daniel Ulrich, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Quincy College 2004
PHD University of Iowa 2011

Mwiza Ushe, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007
BS University of Pittsburgh 2000
MS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007

Renee Bailey Van Stavern, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Univ Texas Health Science Ctr 1997
BA Texas A&M University 1991

Arun S. Varadhachary, MD, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Temple University 2004
PHD Temple University 2001

Amy Robichaux Viehoever, BE, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BE Catholic University America 1998
MD Vanderbilt University 2006
PHD Vanderbilt University 2004

Oksana Volshteyn, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Medicine
MD Minsk State Medical Institute 1976

Andrew M. Wayne, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of CA Riverside 1989
MD University of Missouri 1993

Ling Wei, MD
Adjunct Research Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Beijing Medical University 1977

Conrad Christian Weihi, PHD, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of Illinois 1993
PHD University of Chicago 1998
MD University of Chicago 2001

Judith L. Weisenberg, MD
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, laboratories, team activities, and clinical presentations.
Credit 53 units.

M35 Neurol 720 Neurology Clerkship
During the four-week Neurology clerkship, students will gain proficiency in understanding diseases of the nervous system, the neurologic work-up, localization and differential diagnosis generation, and devising a treatment plan. A variety of settings are available, which could include adults or pediatric services, with both inpatient and outpatient experiences. Students will provide care for patients with neurologic problems under the supervision of residents, fellows and attendings.
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 WUJ 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).
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 one or 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 subspecialty clinics 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. Student rotating on the VEEG monitoring service will focus on learning the indications and uses of VEEG and basic EEG reading skills.

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 the 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.