Department of Neurology

Neurology concerns itself with the diseases of the 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 to attend basic science or clinical conferences. During the second year, the Department of Neurology presents the course Diseases of the Nervous System (Neur 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

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

Beau Ances, MD
Taylor Avenue Building Extension, 2nd Floor
Phone: 314-747-8423

Neuroimaging of neurodegenerative disorders. Students can work in a neuroimaging laboratory that is focused on the translational discovery of neuroimaging biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases. The laboratory focuses on the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders. We are investigating the effects of neurodegenerative diseases on the brain network level using functional (blood oxygen level dependent imaging, arterial spin labeling), structural (volumetrics, diffusion tensor imaging), and metabolic (PET amyloid and tau) methods. 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 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 cerebrospinal fluid 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, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay 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 that leads to the lesions of multiple sclerosis. We are also funded to study the effects of diet and adipokines on neuroinflammation. Depending on 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 of multiple sclerosis, cell culture or studies of human samples (cerebrospinal fluid, blood or 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. The student will learn about neuroimaging, imaging analyses, data collection, data management and clinical study endpoints in multiple sclerosis. They will observe patient participants undergoing a detailed evaluation of disability measures, such as ambulation,
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 multiple sclerosis, 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 to determine their effects on clinical function and learn to identify 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 approach to these issues 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 the etiology, pathophysiology and treatment of basal ganglia disorders. We have several studies of Parkinson disease (PD). We investigate mechanisms of action of deep brain stimulation, which is 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 to quantify motor behavior. We also have an active program developing and validating neuroimaging biomarkers for PD and for determining the integrity of the nigrostriatal pathway that includes studies in human and animal models of PD. We have an active program that combines a variety of approaches to developing biomarkers and investigating 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 to parse out the effects of selective dopaminergic agonists. We are also working to develop MR-based methods including diffusion tensor imaging and resting-state functional connectivity to investigate the 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 United States and residents living near a smelter in South Africa; neuroimaging, in which we study the pathophysiology of toxin-mediated parkinsonism; geographic information systems research, in which we associate environmental toxin exposures with the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease in the United States and Finland; and neuropathologic studies, in which we evaluate manganese-exposed workers from South Africa. There are numerous opportunities available for students to be involved with any of these projects. Students will receive some clinical exposure as well to familiarize them with pertinent clinical syndromes.

Marcus E. Raichle, MD
East Building, 2nd Floor
Phone: 314-362-6907

This lab investigates in vivo brain hemodynamic, metabolic and functional studies of human cognition and emotion using cyclotron-produced isotopes and PET as well as 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, this lab studies antigen-presenting 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.
Aninda Bhat Acharya, MD, MD1
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Kansas 1996
MD1 University of Kansas 1996
BS University of Kansas 1992

Muhammad Taher Al-Lozi, MS, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MS University of Jordan 1985
BA University of Panjab 1976
MD University of Panjab 1980

Isabel Alfradique-Dunham, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Universidade Federal Fluminens 2008

Denis Ian Altman, MBBCH
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
MBBCH University of the Witwatersra 1975

Lizette Alvarez-Montero, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1987
MD School Not Listed 1991

Korina Anastasaki, PHD, MS
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
PHD Edinburgh University 2011
MS Edinburgh University 2007
BS University of York 2006

Beau Mark Ances, MS, PHD, MD
Daniel J Brennan MD Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Professor of Radiology
MS London School of Economics 1994
BS University of Pennsylvania 1993
PHD University of Pennsylvania 2000
MD University of Pennsylvania 2001

Gabriel C Araujo, BA1, PHD, MS
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA California State University 2004
BA1 California State University 2004
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2011
MS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007

Bhooma R. Aravamuthan, MD, PHD, BS1
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BS Michigan State University 2005
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2012
PHD Oxford University 2008
BS1 Michigan State University 2005

Baback Arshi, MA, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MA Georgetown University 2006
MD Saint Louis University 2010
BA University of Southern Calif 2004

Andrew J Aschenbrenner, MS, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
BS University of Kansas 2010
MS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2013
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2016

Ganesh M Babulal, MS, MS, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MS University of Minnesota 2010
MS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2015
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2014
BS University of Minnesota 2008

Robert H Baloh, PHD, MD, MD1
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2005
BS Brown University 1995
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2001
MD1 Washington Univ in St. Louis 2001

Nicolas Regis Barthelemy, MS, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
MS Paris Sud University 2007
BS Paris Sud University 2005
PHD Strasbourg University 2011

Randall John Bateman, BS1, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Charles F and Joanne Knight Distinguished Professor of Neurology
BS Washington Univ in St. Louis 1995
BS1 Washington Univ in St. Louis 1995
MD Case Western Reserve Univ 2000

Sarah Louise Bauer Huang, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
MD Stanford University 2012
BS Duke University 2000
PHD University of CA San Francisco 2006

Max Prely Benzaquen
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Mary Ellen Bertrand, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
MD Southern Illinois University 1993
BS McKendree College 1987
Alan J Birtwistle
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Lynn Bennett Blackburn, MA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MA Indiana University Bloomington 1970
BS Univ of Wisconsin Madison 1968
PHD Indiana University Bloomington 1972

James Scott Bonner, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Missouri 1980
BA Drury College 1976

Christopher C. Bosworth, PHD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Southern Illinois University 2002
PHD University of Texas Southwest 2014

Janice E Brunstrom-Hernandez, MD
Adjunct Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Virginia 1987

Robert Charles Bucelli, MD, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD State Univ of NY Buffalo 2007
BS Canisius College 2001
PHD State Univ of NY Buffalo 2007

Michelle A. Burack, MD, PHD
Adjunct Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Duke University 1990
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2002
PHD University of Virginia 2000

Garrett C Burris, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
MD Saint Louis University 1968
BS School Not Listed 1964

C

David J Callahan, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1986
BS University of Notre Dame 1982

Alejandra Camacho-Soto, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Georgetown University 2005
MD University of Pittsburgh 2011

Meghan Clark Campbell, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Radiology
PHD Indiana State University 2004
BS University of Illinois 1999

Russell C. Cantrell, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

MD University of Tennessee 1989
BS School Not Listed 1985

David A Carpenter, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1983
BS Amherst College 1979

Alexandre Carter, MD, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy
MD Harvard University 2003
PHD Harvard University 2003
BS Brandeis University 1991

Salim Chahin, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Damascus University 2004
MS University of Pennsylvania 2013

Yasheng Chen, MA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MA Washington Univ in St. Louis 2002
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2002
BA Tianjin University 1993

Luqi Chi, MD, MA
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Huabei Medical College for Coa 1984
MA University of Pennsylvania 2009

John R. Cirrito, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2004
BA Boston College 1998

David B Clifford, MD
Melba and Forest Seay Professor of Clinical Neuropharmacology
in Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Medicine
BA Southwestern University 1971
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1975

Maurizio Corbetta, MD
Norman J. Stupp Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences
Professor of Neuroscience
Professor of Radiology
MD University of Pavia 1985

Susan R Criswell, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Nebraska 2001
BS University of Nebraska 1997

Dorothy Anne Cross, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Alabama 1980
BS University of South Alabama 1976
Nicole Cruz  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Rachel S Darken, PHD, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BA University of Texas Austin 1996  
PHD Cornell University 2003  
MD Cornell University 2004

Albert Augustus Davis, MD, PHD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Vanderbilt University 2011  
BS Emory University 2002  
PHD Emory University 2009

Brian Keith Day, PHD, MD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS Harvard University 1997  
PHD University of Kentucky 2005  
MD University of Kentucky 2007

Gabriela De Bruin, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Federal University of Ceara 2005

Andrea Denny, JD, MSSW  
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)  
JD University of Texas Austin 1998  
BA University of Virginia 1990  
MSSW University of Texas Austin 1993

Amar Dhand, PHD, MD  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS Dartmouth College 2001  
PHD Oxford University 2006  
MD Harvard University 2008

Rajat Dhar, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD McMaster University 2008

Marc I Diamond, MD  
Adjunct Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS Princeton University 1987  
MD University of San Francisco 1993

Kalen R Dionne, MD, PHD  
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)  
BA Colorado College 2005  
MD University of Colorado Aurora 2015  
PHD University of Colorado Aurora 2012

Michael N Diringer, MA, MD  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
Professor of Anesthesiology  
Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Professor of Occupational Therapy

Lawrence N Eisenman, MD, PHD  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Northwestern University 1997  
PHD Northwestern University 1997  
BS Johns Hopkins University 1988

Juan Escandon, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS School Not Listed 1985  
MD School Not Listed 1989

Eugene Evra, MD  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Smolensk State Medical Academy 1996

Andrew Ross Findlay, MD  
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)  
BS University of CA Santa Barbara 2007  
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Julaine Marie Florence, DPT, MS  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
Professor of Physical Therapy

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BA University of Virginia 1990  
MSSW University of Texas Austin 1993

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PHD Oxford University 2006  
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MD University of San Francisco 1993

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MD University of Colorado Aurora 2015  
PHD University of Colorado Aurora 2012

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Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Professor of Occupational Therapy

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Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
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PHD Northwestern University 1997  
BS Johns Hopkins University 1988

Juan Escandon, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
BS School Not Listed 1985  
MD School Not Listed 1989

Eugene Evra, MD  
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)  
MD Smolensk State Medical Academy 1996

Andrew Ross Findlay, MD  
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)  
BS University of CA Santa Barbara 2007  
MD University of CA Irvine 2013

Julaine Marie Florence, DPT, MS  
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)  
Professor of Physical Therapy
Wing Man Fong, MA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MA University of Hong Kong 2009
BS University of Nottingham 2005
PHD Illinois Institute of Technol 2015

Andria L Ford, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Radiology
MD University of Oklahoma 2002
BS Duke University 1998

Thomas Foutz, PHD, MD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
PHD Case Western Reserve Univ 2011
BA Johns Hopkins University 2003
MD Case Western Reserve Univ 2013

Bennett David Frank, MD, PHD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1982
MD Beaufort Technical College 1988
PHD Beaufort Technical College 1987

Robert P. Fucetola, PHD, MA
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Adjunct Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1991
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1997
MA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1993

Rafael Galindo, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of New Mexico 2007
BS University of New Mexico 1996
PHD University of New Mexico 2005

Gilbert Gallardo, MS, MS, PHD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of Texas El Paso 1999
MS Univ of Texas San Antonio 2002
BS University of Texas El Paso 1999
MS Univ of Texas San Antonio 2002
PHD University of Texas Southwest 2008
PHD University of Texas Southwest 2008

Stefanie Geisler, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Humboldt University 2001

Nupur Ghoshal, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Psychiatry

PHD Northwestern University Med 2001
MD Northwestern University Med 2003
BA Iowa State University 1995

James Anthony Giles, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
BS University of Manchester 2013
PHD University of Manchester 2012

James M Goldring, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1986
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1971
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1977

Jennifer L. Griffith, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BA Indiana University Bloomington 2004
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2012
BS Indiana University Bloomington 2004
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2012

Prateek Grover, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Mahatma Gandhi University 2000
PHD Marquette University 2012

Royal Gene Grueneich, PHD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA School Not Listed 1973
PHD University of Minnesota 1979

Rejean Michael Guerriero, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Bates College 2001
MD University of New England 2009

Kristin Guilliams, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BS Furman University 2002
MD University of Virginia 2006

Christina A. Gurnett, PHD, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Professor of Pediatrics
PHD University of Iowa 1998
BS University of Notre Dame 1991
MD University of Iowa 1998

David H Gutmann, PHD, MD, MS
Donald O. Schnuck Family Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Genetics
Professor of Neurological Surgery
Professor of Pediatrics
PHD Davenport University 1984
MD Davenport University 1986
MS Davenport University 1980
BS Davenport University 1979

**H**

Joseph Hanaway, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA McGill University 1956
MD McGill University 1960

Lisa Adel Harker
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)

Jason J Hassenstab, B MUS, MS PSYC, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences
B MUS New York University 2002
MS PSYC Fordham University 2005
PHD Fordham University 2009

J Michael Hatlelid, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA St Johns University 1970
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1977

Robert Edward Hogan III, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of MO Columbia 1989
BA Augastana College 1985

Derek Lance Holder, MS, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MS Rosalind Franklin University 2008
BS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007
MD CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL 2012

David Michael Holtzman, MD
Andrew B, and Gretchen P. Jones Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Head of the Department of Neurology
Professor of Developmental Biology
BS Northwestern University 1983
MD Northwestern University 1985

Terri L Hosto, BSW, MSW
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BSW University of Illinois 1981
MSW University of Michigan 1986

Chung Hsu, PHD, MD
Adjunct Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD University of Virginia 1975
MD National Taiwan University 1970

Thy N Huskey, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Northwestern University Med 1996
BS Northwestern University 1993

Krzysztof L Hyrc, MS, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MS Jagiellonian University 1981
PHD Jagiellonian University 1987

**I**

Jill Christine Isenberg, MS PSYC, PHD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MS PSYC Wake Forest University 2003
BA Wake Forest University 1998
PHD Wake Forest University 2005

**J**

Sindhu Saji Jacob, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Kottayam Medical College 1994

Mark F Jacquin, PHD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Brandeis University 1975
PHD City University of New York 1980

Siddharth Vinod Jain, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
MD D.Y. Patil Medical College 2003

Laura Ann Jansen, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
PHD Saint Louis University 1996
BA Northwestern University 1991
MD Saint Louis University 1998

Yo-El S Ju, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Harvard University 2001
MD Columbia University 2005

Neringa Juknis, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BA School Not Listed 1985
MD Kaunas Medical Institute 1989

**K**

Peter Kang, MD
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Genesee College 2008
MD Univ of Pittsburgh Greensburg 2012

Richard T. Katz, MA, MD
Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA University of Rochester 1977
MA Cleveland Institute of Music 1979
MD Case Western Reserve Univ 1981

Salah G. Keyrouz, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery
MD Lebanese Univ Med Science 2000

Syed Ahmed Khader, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS School Not Listed 1989
MD University of Madras 1993

Paul Thomas Kotzbauer, MD, PHD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Developmental Biology
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1997
BS Northwestern University 1989
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1997

Geraldine J. Kress, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2009

Ashok Kumar, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Dow Medical College Karachi 1985

Terrance T. Kummer, PHD, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2006
BS University of Minnesota 1999
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2006

Eric Carl Landsness, BE, MD, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
BE University of Washington 2003
MD University of Wisconsin-Madiso 2013
PHD University of Wisconsin-Madiso 2011

David Veloso Lardizabal, MD
Associate Professor in Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of the Philippines 1987
MD CEBU Institute of Medicine 1991

Douglas P. Larsen, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
BA Brigham Young University 1999
MD University of Utah 2003

Jin-Moo Lee, PHD, MD
Norman J Stupp Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Radiology
BA Yale University 1989
PHD Cornell University 1992
MD Cornell University 1993

Walter Lemann III, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Yale University 1975
MD Tulane University 1979

Alison M Leston, PHD, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of Illinois 1990
PHD University of Chicago 2000
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2001

Mingjie Li, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Kochi Medical School 1989
MD Heilong jiang Coll of Trad Med 1983

Yan Li, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Huazhong Agricultural U 2007
PHD University of Alabama 2017

Amy K Licis, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Rice University 2000
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2004

Matthew Chandler Loftspring, MD, PHD, BAS
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Cincinnati 2013
PHD University of Cincinnati 2011
BAS DePauw University 2004

Jane Loitman, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
Instructor in Clinical Medicine
BA Tufts University 1982
MD University of Minnesota 1992
MS Georgetown University 1988

Glenn Lopate, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Colorado St University 1983
MD Ohio State University 1987

Brendan Patrick Lucey, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BA University of Vermont 1999
MD John Hopkins University 2003

Cindy Ly, MD, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
MD Baylor College of Medicine 2010
PHD Baylor College of Medicine 2008
BS University of Texas Austin 2000

Luigi Maccotta, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Radiology
BS St Peters College 1994
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2005
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2005
Baijayanta Maiti, PHD, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD University of Utah 2010
MD Calcutta University 2003

Raman Kant Malhotra, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Harvard University 2001

John F Mantovani, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
BA University of Evansville 1971
MD University of Missouri 1974

Kathryn Mary Marlow, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD SUNY DOWNSTATE MED BROOKLYN 2013
BS State Univ of NY at Albany 2009

Pietro Mazzoni, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of CA San Diego 1988
PHD Mass Inst of Technology (MIT) 1994
MD Harvard University 1995

Eric Martin McDade, DOST
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
DOST Chicago Coll of OsteopathicMed 2004
BA Canisius College 1998

Timothy M Miller, MD, PHD
Clayson Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998

Robert P Margolis, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Kent St University 1971
MD Saint Louis University 1975

Kathryn Mary Marlow, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD SUNY DOWNSTATE MED BROOKLYN 2013
BS State Univ of NY at Albany 2009

Pietro Mazzoni, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of CA San Diego 1988
PHD Mass Inst of Technology (MIT) 1994
MD Harvard University 1995

Eric Martin McDade, DOST
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
DOST Chicago Coll of OsteopathicMed 2004
BA Canisius College 1998

Timothy M Miller, MD, PHD
Clayson Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998

Robert T Naismith II, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Case Western Reserve Univ 1994
MD Case Western Reserve Univ 1998

Kathryn Mary Marlow, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD SUNY DOWNSTATE MED BROOKLYN 2013
BS State Univ of NY at Albany 2009

Pietro Mazzoni, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of CA San Diego 1988
PHD Mass Inst of Technology (MIT) 1994
MD Harvard University 1995

Eric Martin McDade, DOST
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
DOST Chicago Coll of OsteopathicMed 2004
BA Canisius College 1998

Timothy M Miller, MD, PHD
Clayson Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998

John Carl Morris, MD
Harvey A and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Occupational Therapy
Professor of Pathology and Immunology
Professor of Physical Therapy
BA Ohio Wesleyan University 1970
MD University of Rochester 1974

Stephanie Morris, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BS University of Arizona 2007

Michael Justin Morrissey, PHD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Saint Louis University 2005

Krista L Moulder, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2001
BA Northwestern University 1993

Erik S Musiek, MD, PHD PMCG
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS College of William and Mary 1999
MD Vanderbilt University 2007
PHD PMCG Vanderbilt University 2005

Soo S Mar, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Pediatrics
MD Institute of Medicine 1987

Robert P Margolis, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Kent St University 1971
MD Saint Louis University 1975

Kathryn Mary Marlow, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD SUNY DOWNSTATE MED BROOKLYN 2013
BS State Univ of NY at Albany 2009

Pietro Mazzoni, PHD, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS University of CA San Diego 1988
PHD Mass Inst of Technology (MIT) 1994
MD Harvard University 1995

Eric Martin McDade, DOST
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
DOST Chicago Coll of OsteopathicMed 2004
BA Canisius College 1998

Timothy M Miller, MD, PHD
Clayson Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1998

Robert T Naismith II, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Case Western Reserve Univ 1994
MD Case Western Reserve Univ 1998

Jeffrey J Neil, PHD, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Pediatrics
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1984
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1984

Susan Searles Nielsen, MA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MA University of Washington 2000
PHD University of Washington 2004
BA Evergreen St College 1992

Anne Fagan Niven, PHD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
PHD University of CA San Diego 1992
BA Wellesley College 1984

Michael Justin Noetzel, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Pediatrics
Vice Chair of Pediatric and Developmental Neurology
BA Yale University 1973
MD University of Virginia 1977

Scott Norris, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Radiology
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 2000
MD University of MO Columbia 2008

Sheel Jitendra Pathak, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BS University of Texas Austin 2004
Robert Harris Paul, PhD, MS
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS California State Long Beach 1993
PHD Oklahoma St University 1998
MS Oklahoma St University 1995

Toni Shih Pearson, B MUS, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
B MUS University of Adelaide 2000
MD University of Adelaide 1998

David M Peeples, MD
Instructor in Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BA Vanderbilt University 1982
MD University of Chicago 1986

Lindsay M Peglar, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
BS Tulane University 2008
MD University of MO Columbia 2013
MS Tulane University 2009

Karen J Pentella, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Ohio State University 1975
MD Ohio State University 1979

Joel S Perlmutter, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Neuroscience
Professor of Occupational Therapy
Professor of Physical Therapy
Professor of Radiology
MD University of MO Columbia 1979
BA Princeton University 1975

Alan Pestronk, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Pathology and Immunology
BA Princeton University 1966
MD Johns Hopkins University Medic 1970

Steven E Petersen, PhD
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, BE, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BE Northwestern University 1982

Chia Ling Phuah, MS, MS1, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Cambridge University 2003
MS Cambridge University 2006

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)
PHD Univ of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2004
MS Univ of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2000
BS University of Notre Dame 1994

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

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)
M PH Johns Hopkins University Medic 1971
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1961
BA Harvard University 1957

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

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

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

James R Rohrbaugh, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
BA Yale University 1971
MD Ohio State University 1974
Robert John Rudock, MBA1, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
MBA1 University of Miami 2011
MD University of Miami 2012
BS John Hopkins University 2006

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

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

Naresha Saligrama, MS, PHD, B VET
Assistant Professor of Neurology (Pending Executive Faculty Approval) (primary appointment)
MS Indian Vet Research Institute 2006
PHD University of Vermont 2013
B VET Karnatak University 2004

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

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

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

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

Bradley L Schlaggar, PHD, MD
Adjunct Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Brown University 1986
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1994
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1994

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

PHD University of Kentucky 2013

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

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

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

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

Michael Snyder, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Iowa State University 1997
MD University of Iowa 2002

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)
MS University of Florida 1994
BS McGill University 1987
PHD University of Florida 1997

Katherine Caroline White Stenson, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Northwestern University Med 2018
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1994
Jeremy Fuller Strain, PHD
Instructor in Neurology (Pending Dean's Approval) (primary appointment)
PHD University of Texas Arlington 2015
BS University of Texas Arlington 2009

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

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

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

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

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

Keisuke Ueda, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
MD Keio University 2006

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

Mwiza Ushe, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007

MS Washington Univ in St. Louis 2007
BS University of Pittsburgh 2000

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

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

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

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)
MD University of Missouri 1993
BS University of CA Riverside 1989

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

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

Judith L. Weisenberg, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
MD University of Minnesota 2002
BS Barnard College 1998

Howard I Weiss, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Tulane University 1972

Nicole Joy Werner, MS, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Univ of Minnesota Twin Cities 1997
MS Saint Louis University 2000
PHD Saint Louis University 2004

Robert L. White III
Instructor in Neurology (primary appointment)
BS Washington Univ in St. Louis 1999

Michael Wong, PHD, MD
Allen P and Josephine B Green Professor of Pediatric Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Neuroscience
Professor of Pediatrics
BA Princeton University 1987
PHD University of Texas Southwest 1995
MD University of Texas Southwest 1995

Gregory Frederick Wu, MD, PHD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Professor of Pathology and Immunology
MD University of Iowa 2001
BS Washington Univ in St. Louis 1993
PHD University of Iowa 2001

Z

Craig Mitchell Zaidman, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
MD University of Virginia 2001

Allyson R Zazulia, MD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education
Professor of Radiology
BS University of Maryland 1990
MD Georgetown University 1994

John M Zempel, MD, PHD
Professor of Neurology (primary appointment)
Professor of Pediatrics
BS Univ of Wisconsin Madison 1985
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1995
PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1995

Lirong Zhu, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology (primary appointment)
MD Fudan University 2000
PHD Baylor College of Medicine 2006

Courses
Visit online course listings to view offerings for M35 Neuro

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 adult 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 828 Neurology Subinternship for Visiting 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 subinterns under the supervision of their junior resident, chief resident, and attending physician. Students 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
This elective provides an outpatient-oriented pediatric and adult neuro-oncology experience for fourth-year medical students. Students will attend multidisciplinary adult and pediatric neuro-oncology clinics and case conferences (tumor boards), attend adult and pediatric radiation oncology clinics, attend neuropathology brain tumor review, participate in subspecialty brain tumor clinics, and 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 the 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, neuropathology, 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, neuropathology, 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 evaluate 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 the Neonatal Neurology Clinical Conference and the 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 Neurointensive Care Unit
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 and fellow.

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.