2018-2019

Neurology
Residency Program

Our mission:
to serve, to heal,
to educate.
As program director, I take great pride in the neurology residency program at Cooper University Health Care. Since our program started in 2009, with only three residents, our reputation as an excellent training ground has spread throughout the country through our graduates, who have secured esteemed fellowships and are highly desired in the job market.

The diversity of our patients is the backbone of the educational experience. Exposure to patients representing a broad spectrum of both common and uncommon neurological disorders, as well as to patients with varied socioeconomic backgrounds, reinforces a robust didactic curriculum. Residents assume greater responsibility as they progress through training, always with the support and supervision of enthusiastic faculty with broad clinical interests. There is a very strong support for our academic mission, including comprehensive electronic resources, support from library staff, and a dedicated research institute. The learning environment is further enriched by our new medical school, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, which offers many teaching opportunities to trainees. There is abundant interaction among numerous academic programs to foster a multidisciplinary approach to patient care and scholarly activity. Departmental and institutional support, that includes an annual poster competition, further create an environment conducive for research. Past and current residents have produced top-notch research—authoring over a dozen manuscript publications (six as first author), 30 presentations at national and international meetings, and numerous abstracts!

For future neurologists, this is truly a great training environment. The unique atmosphere provides a strong emphasis on clinical neurology, yet also provides abundant exposure to clinical research and basic science enabling the graduating resident to explore careers in academics, research, and clinical practice, or to continue into subspecialty fellowship training.

I also take pride in the open dialogue between our residents and faculty. I meet with our residents regularly to improve our program any way possible. We encourage you to apply to our program so that you may visit us and see firsthand the exciting opportunities we offer.

Joseph V. Campellone, MD, FAAN
Program Director, Neurology Residency
Professor of Neurology
Dear Applicants,

Welcome to the Cooper University Health Care Neurology Program. We are delighted that you are interested in learning more about our hospital and its superb training opportunities. Cooper has a long history of excellence in education. Our residency graduates have been exceptionally well trained and are ready to take on any clinical or educational challenge.

Our neurology faculty members are regional experts in diverse subspecialty areas, including cerebrovascular disease, endovascular and interventional neurology, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disease, and movement disorders. We have a wonderful mix of seasoned experts, and have recently expanded our services with additional clinicians who have a passion for teaching. This includes two of our own graduates who provide broad clinical and educational experiences while enhancing delivery of care. We are committed to your development as a person, a physician, and a leader in the medical community. Our program’s size and structure make it an ideal choice for learning the “art and science” of neurology. Our residents cover only one hospital under the supervision of committed faculty, which provides opportunity for much more individualized instruction than possible at other programs.

The program also benefits from our collaboration with Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), providing resident trainees the opportunity to share their knowledge with enthusiastic medical students. This collaboration encourages an environment conducive to team-focused patient care, safety, research, and education. Our residents also benefit from neuroanatomy labs, pathology reviews, and SIM lab experiences made possible through our affiliation with CMSRU.

Please consider applying to our program if your goal is to be an excellent neurologist functioning at the highest level of knowledge and experience after residency. This is one of the most exciting times in your professional career, and we look forward to helping you achieve your professional and personal goals, while having a little fun along the way.

Melissa A. Carran, MD
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Associate Professor and Chair of Neurology
Clinical Neurophysiology
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The Neurology Residency Program at Cooper University Health Care is a four-year categorical program offering three resident positions for each year of training. The program reinforces clinical patient care and scholarly pursuits through our most valuable resource—our patients with diverse neurological disorders and backgrounds.

Our state-of-the-art hospital provides training facilities for numerous residency programs and medical fellowships. House officers have primary patient care responsibility, while faculty serves to supervise and teach. This philosophy motivates trainees to become self-sufficient and confident graduates.

Our department is part of the multidisciplinary, patient-centered Cooper Neurological Institute (CNI), which facilitates a team approach to improving the patients’ experience and outcomes. The department also continues to expand our faculty and services offered.

Here’s what makes Cooper a great place to train:

- All of our neurology inpatients are cared for by attending faculty neurologists. This ensures close supervision and interaction of attending physicians and house staff and excellent bedside teaching.
- Our accessible, full-time faculty are dedicated to teaching and patient care.
- We emphasize ambulatory care and the office practice of neurology.
- Our residents spend significant time in ambulatory settings, which prepares them for life after residency.
- We have an excellent, balanced mix of patients. Cooper is the only tertiary care hospital in southern New Jersey and receives a large number of tertiary referral patients.
- An on-site biostatistician supports research projects.
- Online access to thousands of journals and medical texts is available 24 hours a day.
- Access to a well-equipped conference room.
- Digital radiology is accessible from all hospital workstations as well as remotely.
- Cooper uses the EPIC electronic medical record system. We use web-based procedure logging, duty-hours documentation and evaluation.

Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers

In 2017, Cooper University Health Care earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers. The Gold Seal of Approval® and the Heart-Check mark represent hospitals with the highest level of stroke care and are symbols of quality from their respective organizations.

Cooper is one of only seven hospitals in New Jersey and the first in South Jersey to achieve this significant certification. With this certification, Cooper joins an elite group of health care organizations focused on highly specialized stroke care.
Curriculum

Our program was awarded five-year accreditation by the ACGME, attesting to the high quality educational content of our clinical and didactic curriculum.

House officers on the stroke service cover a six-bed stroke unit and evaluate all vascular neurology patients in various settings throughout the hospital; and manage critically-ill patients in our several intensive care units. The general neurology service residents evaluate patients for non-stroke consultations and manage patients admitted to the neurology unit, including a four-bed epilepsy monitoring unit. Senior neurology residents have great flexibility rotating through a wide variety of subspecialty experiences. Senior residents also assume more responsibility in directing and teaching junior residents and medical students.

Residents get significant exposure to outpatient neurology through designated monthly rotations in general neurology and subspecialty electives. This is supplemented by a continuity clinic in which residents acquire and follow their own, recurrent patients throughout the three years of their training.

Much of the PGY2 year is spent taking care of patients on the neurology service and performing consultations in the inpatient setting. The remaining time as PGY2 consists of rotations in general outpatient neurology and psychiatry.

Senior neurology residents at Cooper will rotate through subspecialty elective experiences in neuromuscular disease, movement disorders, epilepsy, and others. Cooper’s position as the only tertiary referral center in South Jersey provides residents with exposure to patients with diverse and unusual problems that offer exceptional educational experiences in various subspecialties. Our epilepsy, neuromuscular, and movement disorder programs enable residents to participate in the care of patients with complex disorders, as well as large volumes of more typical neurological conditions. Cooper’s deep brain stimulator, botulinum toxin programs, stroke program, and epilepsy monitoring unit attract referrals from many local providers and hospitals.

**Required Rotations**
- Inpatient neurology service
- Consult service
- General outpatient neurology
- Neuro-critical care
- Child neurology
- Psychiatry
- Continuity clinic

**Electives**
- Neuromuscular/electromyography
- Neurocognitive disorders
- Neuro-rehabilitation
- Epilepsy/EEG
- Neuro-critical care
- Pain management/headache
- Movement disorders
- Neuro-radiology
- Research
Pediatric Neurology at Cooper

The Division of Pediatric Neurology at Cooper University Health Care is one of many excellent specialties available at Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper. Pediatric neurologists at Cooper care for inpatients and outpatients with a broad array of conditions including Tourette syndrome, autism, ADHD, pediatric epilepsy, congenital neurological disorders, neurocutaneous syndromes, and many others. Residents rotating on the service will be exposed to many common pediatric neurology disorders as well as managing uncommon disorders and critical illnesses. The service is complemented by experienced geneticists, who provide cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic advances to patients with hereditary disorders across their lifespans, including enzyme replacement therapy programs. Pediatric neurology faculty members are on-site at Cooper, so residents do not have to travel for this experience and therefore do not miss out on didactics or other program activities.

Neurology Didactics

There are a variety of daily conferences providing essential basic science and clinical instruction. The didactic curriculum is very flexible and topics are adjusted frequently in response to the needs and interest of the residents. As a group, our residents consistently perform above average on service exams and feel confident and well-prepared to take their board exam. Bioethics, finances of medicine, and other contemporary subjects are integrated into the curriculum to provide residents additional interesting, relevant, and useful information which also includes:

- Morning report
- Basic science discussion
- Journal club
- Case presentation
- Neurology grand rounds
- Clinical pearls
- Epilepsy surgery conference
- Neurological disorder topic of the week

Child Neurology Faculty

Michael H. Goodman, MD, MMM, FAAP
(Chairman and Chief, Department of Pediatrics)

Michael J. Colis, PhD

Thomas P. Drake, MD

Caroline Eggerding, MD

Evelyn M. Gonzalez, MD

Tresa D. McSween, MD, MBA

Amir Pshytycky, MD

Deborah T. Sharpe, RN, APN

Nora J. Vizzachero, RN, APN
Our neurology residents have secured prestigious fellowship positions including:

- University of Florida   Movement disorders
- Cleveland Clinic   Neuro-critical care
- Drexel/Hahnemann   Clinical neurophysiology
- Duke   Neuro-critical care
- Duke   Vascular neurology
- Hershey Medical Center   Clinical neurophysiology
- Medical College of Wisconsin   Clinical neurophysiology
- Cedars-Sinai   Neuro-critical care
- University of Maryland   Movement disorders
- University of Maryland   Clinical neurophysiology
- University of Miami   Neuro-critical care
- University of Pennsylvania   Epilepsy
- University of California SD   Vascular Neurology
- NYU   Movement disorders
- Vanderbilt   Clinical neurophysiology
- University of Maryland   Neurophysiology
- University of Maryland   Movement disorders
Adult Neurology Faculty

Our faculty represent experience across a wide array of neurological subspecialties and more importantly, enthusiastic and experienced educators.

Jessica Bryson, PA-C received her undergraduate degree in biology from Stockton University in Pomona, New Jersey, and her master's degree in Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Salus University in Pennsylvania. In the outpatient clinic, she cares for patients suffering from stroke and general neurologic conditions. Working closely with Dr. Syrow, she also has a special interest in headaches and migraines, and is integral to Group Visits through the Cooper Advanced Care Center where she helps treat patients suffering from migraines.

Evren Burakgazi, MD received her medical degree from Istanbul University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in neurology at George Washington University School of Medicine where she was recognized as Resident of the Year. After completing a fellowship in Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. Burakgazi-Dalkilic was co-director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit and an assistant professor of neurology at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center – MCV Campus in Richmond, Virginia, before coming to Cooper.

Dr. Burakgazi-Dalkilic specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, pre-surgical evaluation, and intracranial epilepsy monitoring. Special interests include the role of hormones in epilepsy, cardiac aspects of status epilepticus and refractory epilepsy, pharmacokinetics of antiepileptic drugs and their interactions with other drugs.

Dr. Burakgazi-Dalkilic has been principal investigator or sub-investigator on a number of external grants and is a contributor to numerous journals and abstracts. She is also a member of several scientific, honorary, and professional societies: American Academy of Neurology, American Epilepsy Society, and American Clinical and Neurophysiology Society (ACNS). She also serves as a member of the AAN Anti-Epileptic Drugs Efficacy and Safety Guideline Committee.

Merin F. Campbell, PsyD earned her doctoral degree in psychology and certificate in clinical neuropsychology at Widener University's Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in neuropsychology within the department of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She conducts comprehensive outpatient neuropsychological evaluations, inpatient consultations, and individual psychotherapy sessions. Although Dr. Campbell primarily sees adults and older adults with neurological conditions such as dementia, movement disorders, epilepsy, TBI, tumor, stroke, and MS, she is also a certified school psychologist and experienced with pediatrics and adolescents. She is particularly interested in the role of neuropsychology in neuro-interventional and neurosurgical procedures such as Wada and intraoperative brain mapping.

Joseph V. Campellone, MD is the program director for the Neurology Residency Program. He has been with Cooper University Health Care since 1996. He is medical director of the Electromyography Laboratory, and is board-certified in neurology, neuromuscular disease, and electrodiagnostic medicine.

As a professor of neurology at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), Dr. Campellone has great interest in education. He was previously the director of the neurology clerkship for Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is currently the CMSRU neurology clerkship director. He is a recent recipient of the UMDNJ Foundation “Excellence in Teaching” award and is also a small group facilitator for Scholar’s workshop at CMSRU.

Dr. Campellone has authored numerous manuscripts, presented at national and local meetings and has reviewed for several medical journals. A member of the American Academy of Neurology, Dr. Campellone has served on several committees
Faculty (continued)

for the American Association of Electrodiagnostic and Neuromuscular Medicine and is on the Medical Advisory board of the Garden State Chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation. Dr. Campellone has a particular interest in myasthenia gravis, neuropathy, and other neuromuscular diseases, as well as electrodiagnosis.

Melissa A. Carran, MD is the chief and chair of the Department of Neurology. A graduate of University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, she completed her neurology residency and subsequent fellowship in epilepsy at Thomas Jefferson Hospital. She is an assistant professor of neurology at CMSRU. Dr. Carran is board-certified in neurology and clinical neurophysiology, with more than 10 years of experience as an attending neurologist and epileptologist. She has also been an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is a member of the Recertification Committee.

Dr. Carran's practice includes treating and managing epilepsy, including women's health, developmental issues, and evaluations for epilepsy surgery. She also participates in several studies of investigational treatments for epilepsy.

Andrea A. Casher, PsyD is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist. She has practiced for almost twenty years, evaluating individuals with a wide variety of neurologically based cognitive disorders, including dementia, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, stroke, brain tumors, and epilepsy. Dr. Casher maintains an active role training neuropsychologists in the New Jersey and Philadelphia area, and working with professional societies and patient advocacy groups. Her expertise is critical to the multi-discipline approach to several Cooper neuroscience programs, including neurosurgical interventions in patients with epilepsy. Dr. Casher also participates in clinical research projects.

Amy Colcher, MD joined Cooper University Health Care as director of the Cooper Neurological Institute Movement Disorders division after 15 years at the University of Pennsylvania. She earned her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, completed her neurology residency training at Georgetown University, and did her fellowship in movement disorders at the University of Pennsylvania. A well-known authority in movement disorders, Dr. Colcher has authored numerous articles and book chapters.

A diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Dr. Colcher serves on the board of the Eastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. She is involved in clinical research and conducts trials on Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other movement disorders. She treats patients with dystonia, and has expertise in the use of Botulinum toxins. She sees patients with Parkinson's disease, Multiple System Atrophy, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, essential tremor, ataxia, and Huntington's disease and other movement disorders. Dr. Colcher also enjoys teaching trainees and in addition to providing clinical instruction to neurology residents, Dr. Colcher is active as a small group leader at CMSRU and precepts several medical students.

Bradley P. Grayum, MD is a graduate of Hahnemann Medical School and the NYU/Bellevue Neurology residency program, and did a fellowship in neuromuscular disease at Downstate Medical Center. He is board-certified, with added qualifications in vascular neurology and is certified in electrodiagnostic medicine through the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

With an active practice focusing on neuromuscular disease, Dr. Grayum also served as director of the stroke program during a long career at Crozer Chester Medical Center, participating in many clinical stroke trials. Since recently coming to Cooper, he maintains an interest in both stroke and neuromuscular disease and has been acknowledged as “Top Doc” several times by various local publications, including Philadelphia magazine.

Dr. Grayum brings enthusiasm and experience as an instructor to our residents. He was named Educator of the Year at Crozer Chester Medical Center in 2012 and received a teaching award from Drexel University in 2014.

Tapan R. Kavi, MD completed his medical education at Pramukh Swami Medical College, India, and returned to Cooper after completing his neurology residency at Cooper and subsequent Neurocritical Care fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Kavi’s return to Cooper continues the tradition of providing excellent training to neurology residents and medical students. He is very enthusiastic about adding to the neurocritical care aspect of Cooper's intensive care services. Dr. Kavi is passionate about providing care to patients during the acute phase of neurologic injury with special interests in cerebral autoregulation, anoxic brain injury and subarachnoid hemorrhage.
Andrew McGarry, MD is an alumnus of UMDNJ and Cooper University Health Care for medical school clerkships and completed his neurology residency at the University of Rochester. He subsequently completed a fellowship in movement disorders and experimental therapeutics at Rochester. He is board-certified in neurology and belongs to the American Academy of Neurology, Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society, Parkinson’s Study Group, Huntington’s Study Group, and Movement Disorder Society. He serves on the HSG Clinical Trial Science and Ethics Review Committee. Dr. McGarry’s interests include Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, spinocerebellar ataxias, and novel treatments for rare movement disorders. His clinical involvement includes delivery of botulinum toxin, deep brain stimulation management, resident education, and medical treatment of tremor, chorea, dystonia, tics, and myoclonus of varying etiologies. Dr. McGarry has interest in cellular mechanisms of neurodegeneration and the development and implementation of clinical trials in movement disorders. He has published numerous abstracts, papers, and book chapters in movement disorder research. He was voted “Top Doctor” in South Jersey Magazine’s 2014 patient poll.

Bethann Mercanti, PA-C received her undergraduate degree in biology from Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey, and her Medical Science master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Salus University in Pennsylvania. She has past experience in family medicine and neurology, and currently is the stroke coordinator for Cooper Neurological Institute. She has an outpatient clinic for patients suffering from stroke and general neurological conditions. Her areas of interest include vascular neurology, teaching, and outreach. She has played an essential role in spreading awareness for stroke prevention and management to both the community and health care professionals.

Thomas R. Mirsen, MD is associate professor of neurology at CMSRU and has been with Cooper University Health Care since 1990. Dr. Mirsen is fellowship trained in dementia and cerebrovascular disease, and is board certified in vascular neurology. Dr. Mirsen is a consistent participant in stroke trials, is active in stroke research, and serves on the Stroke Advisory Panel of the Department of Health of New Jersey. He has served as associate division head of neurology at Cooper. He has repeatedly been named a “Top Doctor” in neurology both in New Jersey and in the Philadelphia area. His practice embraces a wide range of neurologic pathologies in addition to his specialty of stroke.

Ly Ngo, MD received her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. She then completed a neurology residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital followed by fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Dr. Ngo sees general neurology patients with an additional focus on EEG interpretation and administration of botulinum toxin for chronic migraine.

Mark A. Rader, PhD is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist who has been in active practice for over thirty years. He has been with Cooper University Health Care since 2005, where he conducts neuropsychological evaluations, sees patients for individual psychotherapy, and is on the inpatient consultation service. Currently an assistant professor of neurology at the CMSRU, he is actively involved in the training and supervision of pre- and post-doctoral students in neuropsychology and medical students. His experience includes inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation with a special focus on the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and emotional disorders arising from them. He has published and presented on many topics related to TBI and has also volunteered his time leading a support group since 2001.

Larisa Syrow, MD completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY Binghamton and subsequently received her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She completed residency in neurology at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical center, followed by fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology at Hahnemann/Drexel Medical Center. She sees general neurology patients and has a special interest in patients with headaches and migraines, performing EMGs, interpreting EEGs and delivering botulinum toxin injections. Dr. Syrow has
Faculty (continued)

maintained an active role in teaching neurology to medical students and residents for which she has won many awards. She also has experience and interest in teaching medical Spanish and facilitating health care to the Spanish-speaking population.

Ryna K. Then, MD earned her medical degree from Instituto Tecnologico De Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and joined Cooper University Health Care after a vascular neurology fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. As director of the inpatient stroke unit, she has a great clinical interest in treating critically ill patients who have various challenging neurological disorders, particularly those with complicated strokes.

Dr. Then's enthusiasm for teaching has been acknowledged through awards for outstanding achievement in teaching medical students. Fluent in Spanish, Dr. Then is a dedicated advocate for her patients and works tirelessly to provide outstanding and compassionate care to people in great need. Dr. Then is active in frequent outreach projects throughout southern New Jersey, with a focus on promoting stroke awareness and prevention in the community. This enthusiasm resulted in her receiving the "Outstanding Hispanic Woman" award in 2015, granted by El Diario, to women who have made a difference in the Hispanic community.

Snigdha Weinberg, MD is a general neurologist with added qualification in neurophysiology. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and then pursued coursework in public health at George Washington University. Subsequently, she earned her medical degree at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York City. She remained at Mount Sinai for neurology residency and then moved on to New York University Hospital for fellowship training in neurophysiology with a focus on electromyography. After her medical training, she returned to the area as an attending neurologist at Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia. There she was an active participant in neurology resident and medical student teaching and served as the director of the medical student clerkship in neurology. At Cooper, she continues her commitment to medical education through her role as a small group leader at CMSRU and as a preceptor for medical students rotating through neurology. She also brings years of clinical experience treating a wide variety of neurologic disorders in both the outpatient clinic and inpatient settings. She has special interests in neurologic care of underserved populations and in women's health as it relates to neurologic diseases.

Michael Weston, MD joins the neurology faculty after completing his residency at Cooper University Health Care. Dr. Weston graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in cognitive science, and attended Windsor Medical School. He has presented research posters at the AAN annual meeting. Dr. Weston's focus is on general neurology with an emphasis on multiple sclerosis. Dr. Weston has received accolades from medical students and junior residents for his compassionate teaching abilities and mentorship, further complementing our robust educational resources.
Our vast diversity of patients and passionate faculty foster an environment that has led to numerous scholarly works by our residents. Academic pursuits are encouraged through special stipends for publication and presentation as well as availability of a research elective. Our residents have an admirable track record of disseminating scientific observations.

(Residents=red; Faculty=blue; neuropsychology fellow=green; *=CMSRU medical student).

**Manuscript Publications and Book Chapters**


What our graduates are saying...

“A graduate of this program would be well equipped to go directly into practice or be prepared for a fellowship of their choice.”

Umer Akbar
Class of 2012
Director,
Movement Disorders Program
Assistant Professor,
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital


Ngo, L. Absolute spike frequency as a predictor of surgical outcome in temporal lobe epilepsy. Seizure, Eur J of Epilepsy (in press)


Poster & platform presentations

Dham B. Prevalence and risk factors associated with acute ischemic stroke among HIV positive individuals: Preliminary analysis from a large administrative database. European Stroke Conference, Barcelona, Spain. May 2010

Dham B. Epidemiology and cognizance of migraines in teenagers. 53rd Annual American Headache Society (AHS) Conference, June 2011

Akbar U, Rincon F. Asystole after right insular ischemic stroke: understanding the heart and brain connection AAN annual meeting 2011

Akbar U. Does epilepsy increase the risk for pacemaker placement? AAN annual meeting 2011

- Akbar U, Dham B, Carran M. Benign-histology meningioma with extracranial metastasis. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Akbar U, Burakgazi E, Kelly JJ. Valproate-responsive subclinical rhythmic electrographic discharges (SREDA) in a migraneur. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Shah U, Akbar U, Wang C. Periodic lateralizing epileptiform discharges (PLEDs) causing persistent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) changes in ipsilateral thalamus. Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Assadi M, Dham B, Zerafati G, Veloski J, Leone P. Motor asymmetry in SCAs. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Velazquez Y, Akbar U, Burakgazi-Dalkilic E. Fatal dysautonomia associated with acute bacterial meningitis. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Dham B. “Benign-Histology Meningioma with Extracranial Metastasis.” Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Dham B, Assadi M. Motor Asymmetry in SCAs. Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011


- Dham B. “The Epidemiology of Status Epilepticus in the United States.” Platform presentation, AAN annual meeting; April 2012. (Research selected among “top 5 %”)

- Shah U, Carran M. Neurosarcoidosis with granulomatous necrosis. AAN annual meeting; April, 2012.


- Kavi T, Velazquez-Rodriquez Y, Mirsen T, Campellone J. Effects of Physiologic Derangements on Outcome of Acute Ischemic Stroke patients after Intravenous Thrombolysis. 10th Annual Neurocritical Care Society Meeting, October 2012.

- Kavi T, Moussavi M, Kirmani J, et al. UCSF ICH Grading System is a better prognostic tool for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage when assessed at 24 hours after the event. 5th Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology annual meeting, October 2012.


What our graduates are saying...

“The diversity of disorders encountered, the opportunity to treat patients from various ethnic and socio-economical backgrounds, combined with the perfect balance of autonomy and supervision, provided me with the ideal foundation to become a well rounded neurologist.”

Yadira Velazquez-Rodriguez, MD
Medical Director, Electrodiagnostic Medicine Laboratory
Christiana Care Neurology Specialists

- Akbar U. Disparities in outcome of patients transferred from referring hospital emergency department with intracerebral hemorrhage versus another medical-surgical illness: a case-control study. AAN annual meeting, April 2013
- Alam S, Then R. Successful Thrombolysis and Thrombectomy in a Patient with Extensive Cerebral Venous Thrombosis. AAN annual meeting, March 2013
- Klinov V, Campellone JV. Comparison of length of hospital stay between treatment with plasma exchange versus IVIg in mild Guillain-Barré Syndrome. AAN Annual meeting, April 2015
- Then R, Patel M. Rare case of central nervous system invasion of mantle cell lymphoma with serial negative magnetic resonances: Case report and Literature review. AAN annual meeting, April 2015.
Neurology Resident Research (continued)

- Taneja R, Campellone JV, Carran M, Then R. Sustained hippus during electrographic status epilepticus and periodic lateralizing epileptiform discharges. Camden Scholar’s forum, Cooper Research Institute, April 2015


- Veloso E*, Ganesh J, Lacomis D, Campellone JV. Late-onset Pompe disease due to known and novel variants in GAA gene with possible contribution of a dystrophinopathy carrier state in a female patient. AAN annual meeting; April 2017

Published Abstracts


- Carran M, Velazquez-Rodriguez Y. High Lipoprotein (a) in Postpartum Epilepsy. *Epilepsy Currents* 2012;(12 Supp)


- Then R, Patel M. Rare case of central nervous system invasion of mantle cell lymphoma with serial negative magnetic resonances: Case report and Literature review. *Neurology* 2015;84:14 Supp P3.146
Neurology Resident Research (continued)


- Veloso E*, Ganesh J, Lacomis D, Campellone JV. Late-onset Pompe disease due to known and novel variants in GAA gene with possible contribution of a dystrophinopathy carrier state in a female patient. Neurology 2017, 88:16 Supp P2.121; 1526-632

Ongoing Research Activities

- Platelet Oriented Inhibition in New TIA Trial (POINT)

- Clobazam use in Epilepsia Partialis Continua - Pilot Study. A phase III, randomized, open label, single center, study on the effects of treatment of Epilepsia Partialis Continua with clobazam compared to treatment with or in addition to lorazepam and/or clonazepam.

- Enroll-HD:A Prospective Registry Study in a Global Huntington’s Disease Cohort Unplanned Hospital Readmissions in Neurology Patients – (Neuro Readmit -1)

- Long term, prospective, multinational, parallel-cohort study monitoring safety in patients with MS newly started on fingolimod once daily or treated with another approved disease-modifying therapy (PASSAGE)

- Neuroimaging based calculation of Optic Nerve Sheath Diameter for non-invasive ICP measurement.

- Impact of timing of Anti-seizure Medications in Status Epilepticus.

- Exploratory Study of the Effects of Mindfulness Training on Behavior, Cognition, and Movement in Huntington’s Disease

- Imaging Dementia - Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) Study: A coverage with Evidence Development Longitudinal Cohort Study

- An Open-Label Tolerability and Exploratory Efficacy Study of Zonisamide for Dyskinesias in Parkinson’s Disease

- A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled Study of Droxidopa for Fatigue in Parkinson’s Disease (PD)

- An Open-Label, Long Term Safety Study of SD-809 ER in Patients with Chorea Associated with Huntington’s Disease. Alternatives for Reducing Chorea in Huntington’s Disease (ARC HD)

- Registry of Amyloid Positive Patients for Alzheimer’s Disease Drug Research Trials (RAmP)
How to Apply

The Neurology Residency Program at Cooper University Health Care is a categorical program, including a PGY1 in preliminary Internal Medicine. This program provides future neurology residents a strong foundation, on which interns are exposed to diverse medical conditions that prepare them for a career in neurology. The innovative curriculum incorporates diverse learning experiences such as simulation lab and a variety of clinical rotations that allows trainees to develop the skills they will use in their future careers.

The neurology program has no specific minimum requirements for board scores, grades, etc. To consider which applicant is best suited for a career in neurology we evaluate the merits of each application based on a number of factors. Due to the competitive nature of our program, candidates with superior grades and scores are more likely to be invited to interview.

Unfortunately, visas other than J1 cannot be accommodated.

Our interview slots fill up quickly. We encourage interested candidates to apply as early as possible.

Contact Information

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Associate Program Director:
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Department of Neurology
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Camden, NJ 08103
It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution, but then, Cooper is an extraordinary health care system.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing health sciences campus that includes the hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Sheridan Pavilion at Three Cooper Plaza medical offices, and the Ronald McDonald House. Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The hospital's 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, health resource center, business center, gift shop, and chapel. State-of-the-art patient care facilities include private patient rooms, technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, and an advanced laboratory automation facility. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites, and autonomous CT scanning technology. Designated floors serve specific patient populations including those needing advanced surgical and heart care, along with South Jersey's only dedicated 30-bed inpatient cancer unit.

Also in the Roberts Pavilion is the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit—featuring 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients too unstable for transport to the operating room.

MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, a four-story, 103,050-square-foot center located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden, is dedicated to cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research. The center includes bright, spacious chemotherapy treatment areas, patient exam rooms, a conference center, and advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.

The design incorporates an aesthetic approach to healing with abundant natural light, a rooftop Tranquility Garden, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling “Tree of Life” centerpiece, and more than 100 pieces of original art created by 71 New Jersey artists.

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University’s (CMSRU) Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process.
The Cooper Health Sciences Campus is located in the heart of Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation via the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal adjacent to the hospital.

Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront which includes a magnificent waterfront park and marina; the Adventure Aquarium; and the BB&T amphitheater, which hosts nationally renowned entertainment throughout the year. Nearby are the Sixers Training Complex, L3 Communications complex, Lockheed Martin, Rutgers University Camden Campus, and Camden County College. There are expected to be $350M in transportation and infrastructure improvements within the next four- to five-years to handle the influx of thousands of new employees to the area and students at nearby growing academic campuses.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary, and historic venues. South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at: CooperHealth.org/Directions