

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:



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- Resident Spotlight
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University of Miami

VOL 8, ISSUE 1 NEUROLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Greetings Neurology Applicants!

On behalf of the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine we would like to introduce you to our Residency program. As one of the largest and most respected clinical neurology and neuroscience departments in the nation, we are committed to excellence in the areas of clinical teaching, research and education. We have recently expanded our program to 40 residents (ten per year, and soon to be increasing to twelve per year!), and as such are seeking highly qualified applicants from throughout the United States.

The mission of the Department is threefold—to provide unparalleled care to patients; to expand the knowledge of the causes, treatments, and cures for neurological disease; and to train the next generation of clinicians and neuroscientists.

Widely recognized as an international referral center, neurologists from Latin America, Florida, and the rest of the United States,



consistently turn to our 67 member faculty (47 clinical, 20 research) for expertise in solving complex neurological problems.

The department is comprised of clinical divisions, research laboratories, clinical laboratories, and research centers including:

- National Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence
- Kessenich Family MDA ALS Center

- McKnight Brain Institute
- Brain Endowment Bank
- Sleep Disorders Center
- International Center for Epilepsy
- Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Division

In 2008, we established our state-of-the-art Neuro-Intensive Care service (24-beds), and plans are underway for additional growth in a variety of areas.

The depth and breadth of clinical exposure make UM/Jackson an ideal place to train. We invite you to learn more about our program by reading this newsletter and visiting our website:

<http://neurology.med.miami.edu>

Sincerely yours,



Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN

Chair, Department of Neurology

Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology and Human Genetics

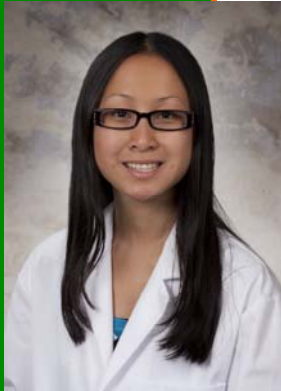


Richard S. Isaacson, MD

Vice-Chair of Education

Director, Neurology Residency Program

Fellow Spotlight: Jocelyn Cheng, PGY-5



Dr. Jocelyn Cheng
Currently: PGY-5
Clinical
Electrophysiology

Jocelyn Cheng grew up in New Jersey. She attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia for medical school and Neurology residency.

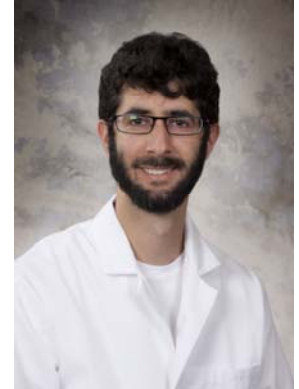
She has really enjoyed her first few months living in Miami, and was excited to join her husband here, one of our new Neuro-critical Care fellows, Ethan Kahn.

David aka "Ethan" is our new

Neuro-intensive Care fellow. He came to us from Drexel University in Philadelphia where he did his Neurology residency. Ethan can speak fluent Spanish and Japanese, is proud of being a NY Jets fan (J-E-T-S Jets Jets Jets!)

Ethan enjoys the acute aspect of working with critically ill patients and states that "making quick decisions has always been a strength of mine". He chose UM for its strength in critical care and stroke, boasting one of the largest NICUs in the United States.

Dr. Ethan Kahn
Currently: PGY-5
Neurocritical Care



Resident Spotlight: Rahul Dave, MD, PhD, PGY-1



Dr. Rahul Dave
Currently: PGY-1

Rahul graduated from UC Berkeley at the age of 18! He then completed his PhD in Physiology (molecular mechanisms of functional G α -tubulin interactions in neurite outgrowth) and graduated medical school from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rahul has been actively involved in teaching and research over the past four years, and

started two free patient care clinics in Chicago.

In the lab, Rahul shows true potential and was selected into our competitive Resident Clinician Researcher Track. He has already forged collaborations with scientists around the country, although he intends to focus this year primarily on his Internal Medicine training.

In his spare time, he enjoys running marathons and spending time outdoors. He also enjoys volunteer and service work. He states "it has really been a pleasure to join the UM/JMH family, and I especially won't miss the Chicago winters one bit!"



Dr. Corneliu Luca
Currently: PGY-4



Resident Spotlight: Corneliu Luca, MD, PhD, PGY-4

"My name is Corneliu, and after completing my Ph.D at the University of Miami (studying molecular mechanisms of mitochondrial disorders and their involvement in neurological diseases), I was accepted into the Resident Clinician Research. I specifically choose UM to take part in this research track, but also because of the strength of the

clinical neurology program and faculty.

My long term goal is to become a physician scientist able to independently conduct research in neuromuscular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases and pursue an academic career in Neurology. So far, Miami has proven to be a great place to work and live.

Thanks for reading and I wish you the best of luck during the Neurology residency application process!

I am now planning my fellowship in movement disorders and continuing research in the field of neurodegenerative disorders."



Quick Stats about our Program:

Recent Fellowship Placements:

(all 2007-10 grads received 1st choice)

- Neuro-Critical Care (Columbia)
- Vascular Neurology (Harvard, BIDMC)
- Clinical Electrophysiology (Johns Hopkins)
- Vascular Neurology (University of Pennsylvania)
- Neuromuscular Medicine (Mayo Clinic, Rochester)
- Vascular Neurology (Columbia)
- Neuro-Ophthalmology (Bascom Palmer, U. Miami)
- Clinical Electrophysiology (University of Miami)
- Sleep Medicine (University of Miami)
- Movement Disorders (University of Miami)
- Pain Management (University of Miami)
- Vascular Neurology (University of Miami)
- Neuro Critical Care (University of Miami)

In-Service Exam Results:

85th%-tile nationally
(Clinical Adult Neurology)

Number of Residents:

10/year (40 total)

Call Schedule (PGY-2):

q 8 nights (~3-4/month)

Resident Satisfaction:

100% (annual resident survey)

NIH Funding, National Rank:

#12

USMLE scores (2010):

Step 1 (range): 200s-250s

Step 2 (range): 210s-270s

Fellowships Offered:

- Vascular Neurology, 2 spots/year (ACGME)
- Neuromuscular Medicine, 2 spots/year (ACGME)
- Sleep Medicine, 4 spots/year (ACGME)
- Clinical Electrophysiology, 2 spots/year (ACGME)
- Neuro-Critical Care, 2 spots/year (UCNS)
- Neuro-Interventional, 1 spot/year (2012)
- Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology, 1 spot/yr
- Movement disorders, 1-2 spots/year
- Neuro-Rehabilitation, 1 spot/year
- Behavior and cognitive neurology, 1 spot/yr (2011)

Resident Spotlight: Gillian Gordon-Perue, PGY-2

“Greetings! Let me give you my perspective as a wife, mom and medical school graduate and tell you a bit about why I chose the Neurology program here at UM over other programs.

Here at UM I am not just a resident but a part of a family. It is a place to grow and blossom not only academically but socially as well. The supportive environment here makes it easier to be organ-

ized and to meet the demands of home and family. There is a quality here that is difficult to describe in words or put into a brochure. There is a genuine affection, concern and protection between the faculty, senior residents, nurses and administrators that certainly makes working here an everyday pleasure!

The combination of the great beaches and amazing weather is certainly an added bonus!

I have been afforded amazing opportunities here at UM, and my research currently focuses on creating the first and only stroke registry in Jamaica. I hope to return home after Fellowship to become just the 5th Neurologist in my home country, all thanks to the training obtained here at UM/JMH.

Enjoy your interview day!”



Resident
Photos



Dr. Salim Dib
Associate Program
Director
SDib@med.miami.edu



Dr. Jennifer Carrasquillo
Administrative Chief Resident
JCarrasquillo@med.miami.edu

Questions?



Dr. Diogo Haussen
Administrative Chief Resident
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For more information and application information, visit our website: <http://neurology.med.miami.edu>. Our main Residency page and Frequently Asked Questions section cover a variety of topics, and the Campus Tour and Photos and Life in Miami sections will provide details about living in South Florida. If you have additional questions, our 2010-11 Administrative Chief Residents, Program Director, Dr. Isaacson (RIsaacson@med.miami.edu) or Associate Program Director, Dr. Dib are happy to help.



Dr. Alon Seifan
PGY-3, Resident Clinician
Researcher Program

Resident Spotlight: Alon Seifan, PGY-3

Alon Seifan completed his undergraduate degree in Finance at the University of Florida and then received his M.A. in Decision and Information Sciences at UF. He subsequently completed medical school at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC.

Alon was accepted into our Resident Clinician Research Program and specifically chose

UM to “take part in this research track, but also because of the strength of the clinical neurology program and faculty. I was especially impressed by the personalities of the residents and attendings and am excited about the training in clinical research that I have already received.”

His specific interest involves medical education, perform-

ance improvement and behavioral sciences. Since joining our program, he has submitted nearly a half a million dollars in grants, including two NIH (R03, R21) and an AAN Education Research grant. His pioneering work focuses on development of an integrated electronic medical record/ education tool where “medical information is used to provide real-time feedback to physicians in training, while studying the effect of educational interventions on patient care outcomes”.



Dr. Melanie Glenn,
PGY-3

Resident Spotlight: Melanie Glenn, PGY-3

Melanie, a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, joined our Neurology residency program in July 2008. She matched at the University of Miami via couples match, along with her husband Charlie (currently a PGY-3 in our

Pathology Residency Training Program).

Melanie has really enjoyed Miami thus far and is “100% sure” she made the right decision joining our program. She “fell in love” with Miami during her interview days, where she stayed “right on South Beach, spent the weekend, and sat on

the beach enjoying the surroundings and the weather!” She says she “really felt comfortable with the people she met during the interview” and was impressed with the “many opportunities to learn.”

She may “not be in Kansas anymore” but the move to South Florida has certainly been an enjoyable experience for her and her husband.

University of Miami Jackson Memorial Medical Center

Department of Neurology

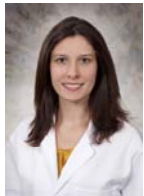
Our newest class joins us from medical schools across the United States, including five from Illinois, and one each from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida and Puerto Rico.



Susan P. Anzalone



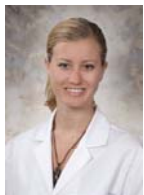
Rahul H. Dave



Alexis A. Economos



Amanda L. Jagolino



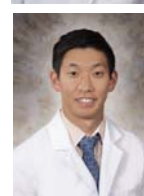
Carly B. Oboudiyat



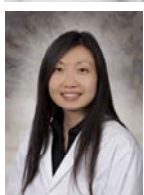
Vikas Pandey



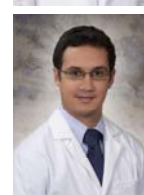
Shnehal Patel



David J. Roh



Jean Sun



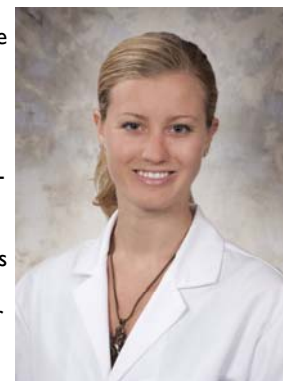
Victor A. Velez-Aldahondo

Resident Spotlight: Carly Oboudiyat, PGY-1

"I have been a 'neuro' person since undergrad when I majored in Neuroscience at UM. I then moved to Manhattan to go to NYU for medical school and live in the 'big city' with my husband. In medical school, I did bench research on glioblastomas, as well as clinical research on adult-onset Pompe disease, giving patients enzyme replacement therapy. I became interested in Miami's program for

Neurology after hearing about all of the impressive new additions to the faculty (many being stolen from New York!), and knowing the world renowned Miami project attracts great research. The interview day sealed the deal for me after meeting the many like-minded, warm, intelligent people who make up the program.

This year I've been able to train in a major public hospital with world class academic instructors, all while feeling like I'm on vacation the minute I leave work and walk out amongst the palm trees and sun; this is an experience I would never trade!"



Dr. Carly Oboudiyat

Resident Clinician Researcher Program



For details on our Clinician Researcher Program, visit: neurology.med.miami.edu/x246.xml

Dr. Richard Isaacson serves as Vice-Chair of Education, Neurology Residency Program Director and Associate Director of the Neurology Clerkship at UM

The Neurology Resident Clinician Researcher Program is aimed to provide residents with necessary faculty mentorship, administrative guidance, infrastructure and research facilities in order to pursue rewarding clinical and basic neuroscience research during residency. It is expected that a research track resident will become conversant in research techniques and will accumulate enough data to submit a career development grant (e.g. NIH K08) upon graduation. While

~20% of our residents already hold graduate degrees, the program also provides flexibility for residents without a Ph.D. or M.S. to pursue advanced research training. Once accepted, residents are given a stipend for grant seminars, conference travel etc., and are afforded the opportunity to customize their schedule with an emphasis on research.

Over the last 4 years our residents have published 36 peer-reviewed publications, and

several have recently been involved in the Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS), the first prospective cohort study among Whites, African Americans, and Caribbean Hispanics. NOMAS aims to investigate the risks and determinants of stroke and help fill gaps in our knowledge of the epidemiology of stroke and vascular disease in minority populations. Now in its 16th year, this NIH study was founded at Columbia University by Dr. Sacco and is one of a myriad of projects at UM.

In the News: AAN Education Grant

Dr. Richard Isaacson, Program Director, was awarded a recent Education Research Grant from the American Academy of Neurology.

Dr. Isaacson (PI) collaborated with Dr. Joseph Safdieh (Co-PI) at Weill Cornell Medical Center in NY, on the project entitled "Evaluating the effectiveness of Continuum as a teaching tool for medical stu-

dents". In conjunction with the AAN Undergraduate Education Subcommittee, Dr. Isaacson has been developing an evidence-based Neurology curriculum for students, using an edited version of the AAN Continuum series as its basis. Dr. Isaacson maintains a longstanding interest in optimal ways of educating residents and students and has pre-

sented his education research at conferences around the world. During his residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, he studied education at the Harvard Medical Academy. His research was honored at the 2009 AAN meeting Scientific Highlight session and was judged to be in the top 5% of the scientific program.

Faculty Spotlight: Walter G. Bradley, DM, FRCP

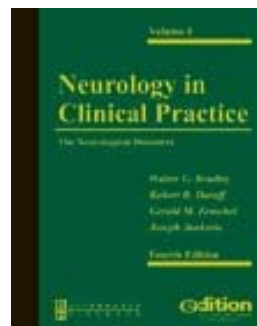
Dr. Walter Bradley



Dr. Bradley, Professor and Chairman Emeritus, is one of the greatest strengths of our training program. As past Director of the Neuromuscular division and former medical director of the Kessnich Family MDA ALS

clinic, Dr. Bradley maintains a role teaching the Neurology residents at Professor's Rounds on Monday at 11 am. A world-renowned clinician, and master educator, he is most recognized by Neurology residents and Neurologists around the world for his seminal textbook, Neurology in

Clinical Practice. With over 400 publications and multiple millions of dollars in research funding over his illustrious career, Dr. Bradley is a true pioneer and leader in the field.



Faculty Spotlight: Ralph L. Sacco, MD



Dr. Sacco joined the University of Miami in April 2007 and was appointed the Miller Professor and Chair of Neurology. He had previously served as Professor of Neu-

**Dr.
Ralph
Sacco**

rology and Epidemiology, Director of the Stroke and Critical Care Division, and Associate Chair of Neurology at the Neurological Institute at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Sacco recently began his tenure as the President of the American Heart Association, and is the first ever Neurologist to lead the AHA. He has been the PI of multiple NIH funded studies including NOMAS, a

seminal study tracking the incidence of stroke in ethnic minorities. He is the author of over 475 papers, chapters, reviews and abstracts and is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Neurology .

Dr. Sacco is strongly committed to residency and fellowship education and has recently expanded the Department, with 10 new faculty over the past year, and over 25 new clinical and research faculty members since joining UM.



Faculty Spotlight: Kristine O'Phelan, MD

Dr. Kristine O'Phelan received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in neurology at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and fellowship training in Neurotrauma and Neurocritical Care at the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Health Sciences, Division of Neurosurgery. Her major subspecialty interest is in critical care of neurotrauma, subarachnoid hemorrhage and multimodality monitoring.

The Neuroscience ICU at JMH is one of the largest neuro-ICUs in the country and has a busy high acuity service. Dr. O'Phelan was honored to receive the Chairman's Award for Teaching Excellence, as voted by the Neurology Residents at UM/JMH. She balances the rigors of academics, including clinical care, teaching and research, with an ever-growing family. In addition to her 4 year old daughter Conner, she and her husband welcomed little Aidan just last year. She has been

thrilled to return back to Miami to help develop the neurocritical care division here and finds working with the team of nurses, a clinical pharmacist, residents and fellows enormously gratifying.



Dr. Kristine O'Phelan

Faculty Spotlight: Tanja Rundek, MD, PhD

Dr. Tatjana Rundek joined the University of Miami in May of 2007 and was appointed Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She also maintains an adjunct research faculty position in Neurology at the Neurological Institute at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She serves as Director of our new Clinical Translational Research

Division, and her research is directed towards the use of ultrasound for early detection, intervention and prevention of functional and structural changes of arterial wall inflammation. She is PI or co-investigator on multiple NIH grants, and has received foundation support to study the relationship between vascular risk factors, subclinical atherosclerosis and stroke in women.



Dr. Tanja Rundek



MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



**University of Miami -
Neurology Applicant Newsletter**

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tcruinale@med.miami.edu



Top 10 reasons for Ranking U. Miami #1
(as submitted by a PGY-2 Resident...)

10. The weather
9. Program commitment to teaching/education
8. Exposure to a diverse array of neurologic disease
7. Great cost of living, ocean views and no state tax!
6. Team-oriented approach/comfortable atmosphere
5. The world-renowned Faculty
4. Outstanding benefits, salary, educational allowance (\$1250/yr), the weather, and... the free iPhone!
3. Wide range of Research opportunities
2. Did I mention the weather?
1. The residents



Out on South Beach: Lucky Strike Bowling Night



**UM Neurology PGY-1 and 2
Residents
Annual Bowling Night**

**Ladies
night at
Lucky
Strike!**

