

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:



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# University of Miami



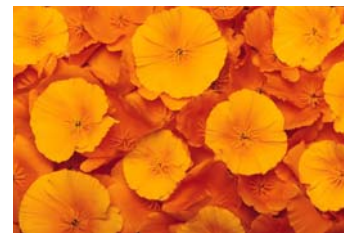
VOL. 9, ISSUE 1 NEUROLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## 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 the second largest Residency program, and one of the 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 42 residents (and 17 Fellows), 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 75 member faculty (52 clinical, 23 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:

**Visit Our Webpage:**  
<http://neurology.med.miami.edu>

**Welcome from our Chair:**  
<http://youtu.be/MBuUbbFCqi0>

Sincerely yours,

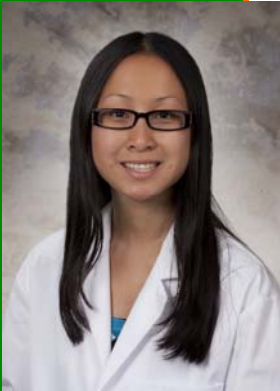


**Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN**  
Chair, Department of Neurology  
Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology and Human Genetics



**Richard S. Isaacson, MD**  
Vice-Chair of Education  
Director, Neurology Residency Program

# Fellowship Spotlight: Sleep Medicine

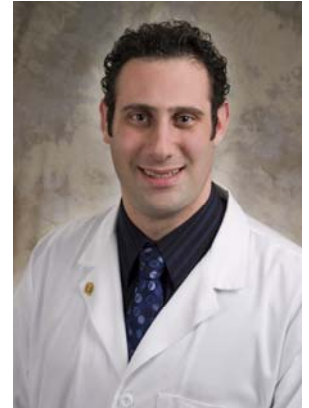


**Dr. Jocelyn Cheng**  
Currently: PGY-6  
Sleep Medicine

Jocelyn Cheng grew up in NJ and attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate, and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia for medical school and Residency. After a one-year Fellowship in Clinical Electrophysiology here at UM, she continued with us for an additional year of Sleep. Her husband, Ethan, is one of our second-year Neuro-critical Care fellows. Ethan, a Proud NY Jets fan, chose UM for its strength in critical care and stroke, boasting one of the largest NICUs in the U.S.

“Hi, my name is Joseph Diamond (“Joe” to everyone who has actually talked to me) and I am currently in my one year fellowship training in Sleep Medicine here at the University of Miami. I am what some would call a “lifer” at UM, as I have completed my undergraduate training, medical school, residency, and now will complete my fellowship here. Miami has offered me so many great opportunities and experiences and I couldn’t be happier to be a part of this program. It was also here that I met my fiancée, Lauren, the love of my life.

**Dr. Joseph Diamond**  
Currently: PGY-5



## Recent Graduate Profile: Jose Gutierrez, MD, MPH



**Dr. Jose Gutierrez:**  
2011 Graduate

“I am currently a stroke fellow at Columbia University Medical Center. The Neurology Residency Program at UM/JMH was an amazing experience. I still remember the first day I came for an interview, there was energy in the air, many projects going on, future plans being developed, everything was moving: the department was taking off. I finished my interview convinced that Miami was the place to be. The strengths of the program are numerous, but the

most outstanding were the great variety of clinical cases, the rich diversity of attendings with expertise in different fields, the inspiring research faculty and facilities, and the unbeatable weather and landscape of turquoise water with a polychromatic sunset in South Beach. A major testimony of the favorable research & development environment is the fact that I was able to obtain an MPH while doing residency. Additionally, I had the mentorship and financial

support to carry on a major project on MRA measuring >7500 intracranial arteries with software created in-house specifically for the project. Before graduating, I was able to publish over 20 articles/abstracts/chapters with several researchers. UM/JMH prepared me for academic neurology, and I am currently applying for my first grant. I hope to become an independent researcher and contribute in the fight against cerebrovascular disease. Miami Rocks!!!!”

**Dr. Melanie Glenn:**  
PGY-4 Resident



## Resident Spotlight: Melanie Glenn, MD

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-4 in our Pathology Residency Training Program). Melanie has really enjoyed Miami thus far and is “100% sure” she made the right deci-

sion 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, her husband, her 2-year old daughter Amelia, and one more on the way, due this Summer.



# Quick Stats about our Program:

**Recent Fellowship Placements:**

(all 2007-11 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-Critical Care (Johns Hopkins University)
- Neuro-Ophthalmology (Bascom Palmer, U. Miami)
- Clinical Electrophysiology (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:**

42

**Call Schedule (PGY-2):**

q 8 nights (~3-4/month)

**Resident Satisfaction:**

100% (annual resident survey)

**NIH Funding, National Rank:**

#9

**USMLE scores (2010):**

Step 1 (range): 200s-260s

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
- 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 (2012)

## Resident Spotlight: Alon Seifan, MD, MA

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, performance 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. Alon Seifan:**  
**PGY-4**



Resident  
Photos

## Resident Spotlight: Lucien Alexandre, MD, PhD



**Dr. Lucien Alexandre**  
Currently: PGY-1

“As an undergraduate student, I studied Neural Science at NYU. My time there proved to be formative. Before then I knew that medicine was my calling but I never realized how much I would come to enjoy research centered around the brain and nervous system.

Those experiences sealed the deal and from then on I sought to combine my two passions, research and medicine. After completing an MD, PhD at

Einstein, I wanted to find a program that would continue to foster my interests in research along with a burgeoning interest in neuro-critical care and interventional neurology.

The program at U of Miami was an excellent fit not only for these opportunities but also because of the fervor and excitement about the department felt by both faculty and residents alike. I have really enjoyed meeting my co-residents,

and working with my seniors and Chiefs.

These are exciting times both in the field of Neurology as well as at the Neurology program at U of Miami / Jackson. I am confident that I made a great choice! Best of luck to you throughout the interview process and Residency Match.”



## Resident Spotlight: Rahul Dave, MD, PhD



**Dr. Rahul Dave**  
Currently: PGY-2

Rahul graduated from UC Berkeley at the age of 18! He then completed his PhD in Physiology (molecular mechanisms of functional Gα-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 five 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. Gillian Gordon-Perue, PGY-3**



## Resident Spotlight: Gillian Gordon-Perue, MD

“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 organized 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 every-

day pleasure! The combination of the great beaches and amazing weather is an added bonus! I am thankful for the educational and research opportunities, and for the support of program leadership and the Chiefs with scheduling to prepare for the recent arrival of our son, Caleb”



## Resident Spotlight: Hilary Glazer, MD

“Welcome applicants! My name is Hilary Glazer-- I grew up in New York, went to college in Boston and then on to med school at Wash U. in St. Louis.

I finally decided on Miami for residency as the best place for me to live and to work, possibly for the rest of my life. I have a beautiful apartment facing the ocean. I drive to work everyday over the Biscayne Bay, and it's not just because

of the amazing views and natural beauty around me that I enjoy coming to work early every morning.

The close-knit, down-to-earth feeling here at Jackson/UM, especially in the neurology department, is palpable and unlike any other program. The service we offer patients is cutting-edge, well-rounded, and extremely rewarding. Of course, there are always those days when you have to be more serious and

work extra-hard, but I can always count on my fellow residents and other Jackson employees to brighten up my day with a joke and a very genuine, positive attitude.

Welcome to the program, and I hope you enjoy your time interviewing here as much as I did!”



**Dr. Hilary Glazer**  
PGY-1

## Class Representatives



**Mohan Kottapally**  
Penn State, MD  
PGY-3 Class Rep.



**Carly Oboudiyat**  
NYU, MD  
PGY-2 Class Rep.



**Shnehal Patel**  
Penn State,  
MD, MPH  
PGY-2 Class Rep.

## Fellow Spotlight: Ciro Estebanez-Ramos, MD, PhD

After completing his Residency in Internal Medicine at Albert Einstein, Ciro continued on as a Neurology Resident at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center / Harvard Medical School. He selected the University of Miami / Jackson Neuro-Critical

Care Fellowship due to the “wide variety of clinical case exposure, as well as the vast opportunity for research”.

In addition to balancing the rigors of his Fellowship and fatherhood, Ciro enjoys several hobbies, including needlepoint,

sewing, quilt making and poetry, most specifically Haiku. In fact, Ciro, and our recent graduate, PGY-5 Fellow Dr. Gary Gualberto, came in first and second place in the annual European Haiku Competition 2011 held in Cherbouge-Octeville, France.



**Dr. Ciro Estebanez-Ramos, PGY-7**

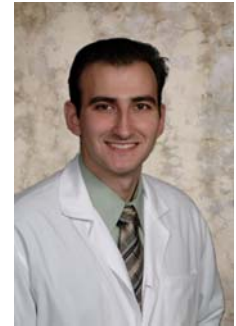


**Dr. Robert Martinez**  
Associate Program  
Director  
Rmartinez3  
@med.miami.edu



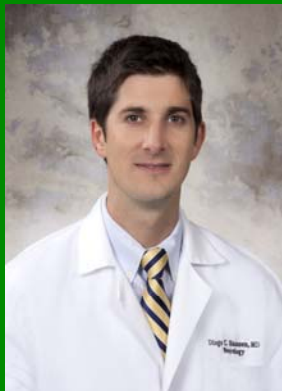
**Dr. Teresita Casanova**  
Administrative Chief Resident  
Tcasanova@med.miami.edu

## Questions?



**Dr. Daniel Roque**  
Administrative Chief Resident  
Daroque@med.miami.edu

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 2011-12 Administrative Chief Residents, Program Director, Dr. Isaacson (RIsaacson@med.miami.edu) or Associate Program Director, Dr. Martinez are happy to help.



**Dr. Diogo Haussen**  
2011 Graduate/  
Chief Resident

## Recent Graduate Profile: Diogo Haussen, MD

Diogo graduated from University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital for his residency in Neurology, and is currently a Vascular Neurology fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess – Harvard Medical School. He will return to Miami for a Neuro-Interventional fellowship in 2012. “The residency training in such an extremely large

medical center is superb. You are exposed to all existing pathologies and all imaginable degrees of severity, which translates into an incredibly solid clinical training and outstanding research opportunities. The large pool of amazingly nice residents allows intense sharing of education and social experiences! More importantly: you will

avoid Raynaud’s, frostbite, and will play tennis outdoors over the ENTIRE year! I am thankful for the opportunities afforded to me at JM/UM. Doing my fellowship with Dr. Louis Caplan and the rest of the stroke division at Harvard/BIDMC was my first choice, and will prepare me well for returning back to UM to train and a Neuro-Interventional Neurologist.”



## Holiday Party!

## Graduation 2011!



# University of Miami Jackson Memorial Medical Center

Department of Neurology  
Welcome to our New PGY-1 Class of 2015!



Lucien Alexandre  
Albert Einstein, MD  
Albert Einstein, PhD



Robert "Matt" Carlile  
Tulane University, MD



Brittani Conway  
U. of Minnesota, MD



Naiara Garcia-Losarcos  
Universidad de Pais Vasco, MD



Hilary Glazer  
Washington University, MD



Christie Hupman  
Med College of Georgia, MD



Shelly Miller  
U. of Miami, MD



Darian Reddick  
Meharry Med College, MD  
Harvard University, MA



Nirav Shah  
Indiana University, MD



Starane Shepherd  
Howard University, MD

## Beach Volleyball Retreat & Picnic!



# Resident Clinician Researcher Program



For details on our Clinician Researcher Program, visit: [neurology.med.miami.edu/x246.xml](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 in NY, on the project "Evaluating the effectiveness of Continuum as a teaching tool for medical students". In conjunction with the AAN Undergraduate Education Subcom-

mittee, Dr. Isaacson developed an evidence-based Neurology curriculum for medical students, using an edited version of the AAN Continuum series as its basis. This research was published in Neurology on January 11, 2011.

Dr. Isaacson, who specializes in Alzheimer's disease and is the author of [Treating Alzheimer's](#) and [Preventing Alzheimer: A Pa-](#)

[tient and Family Guide](#), maintains a long-standing interest in education and has presented his education research at conferences around the world. During residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, he studied education at the Harvard Medical Academy.

He is currently the PI on a multi-center (Penn, Cornell, Harvard, U. Rochester, UM) education research protocol using the EMR/Health IT.

## Faculty Spotlight: Walter G. Bradley, DM, FRCP

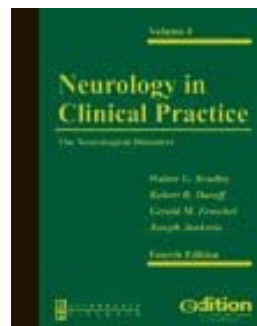
**Dr. Walter Bradley**



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 is the past President of the American Heart Association (tenure 2010-2011) and was 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 35 new clinical and research faculty members since joining UM.



## Faculty Spotlight: Kristine O'Phelan, MD

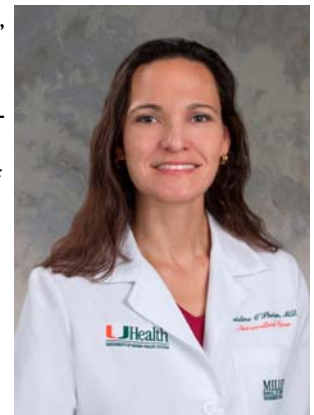
Dr. Kristine O'Phelan received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in neurology at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and fellowship training in Neurotrauma and Neurocritical Care at the University of California, Los Angeles Center 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, and was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology.

She balances the rigors of academics, including clinical care, teaching and research, with an ever-growing family, including a 4 year old daughter

Conner and 1 year old son, Aidan. 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 is currently 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**



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
MILLER SCHOOL  
of MEDICINE



**University of Miami  
Neurology Applicant Newsletter**

University of Miami Medical Campus  
Clinical Research Building (CRB)  
1120 NW 14th Street, Suite #1387/#1386  
Miami, FL 33136  
Office: (305) 243-3902/(305) 243-2742  
Fax: (305) 243-6546  
E-mail: [vmaldona@med.miami.edu](mailto:vmaldona@med.miami.edu)  
[tcrugna@med.miami.edu](mailto:tcrugna@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), and... the weather!
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-2 and 3  
Residents  
Annual Bowling Night**

**Ladies  
night at  
Lucky  
Strike!**

