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## Message from the Chair

With summer in full swing, I'm happy to see our department thriving and continuing to deliver stellar neurologic care and build on cross-cutting research and education. I appreciated the engagement from faculty members during our follow-up meeting to the Strategic Planning Retreat, and I look forward to moving our priorities forward together.



It was so great to meet the incoming neurology residents on Friday, July 1 - the future of our residency program is looking bright and I look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish during their time here. Here's to another successful academic year!

Enjoy the fourth edition of *Neurology News & Notes* and reach out to your colleagues to acknowledge their success!

*Page B. Pennell, MD, FAES*

*Chair and Henry B. Higman Professor of Neurology*

## New Stroke Clinic Opens at UPMC Mercy

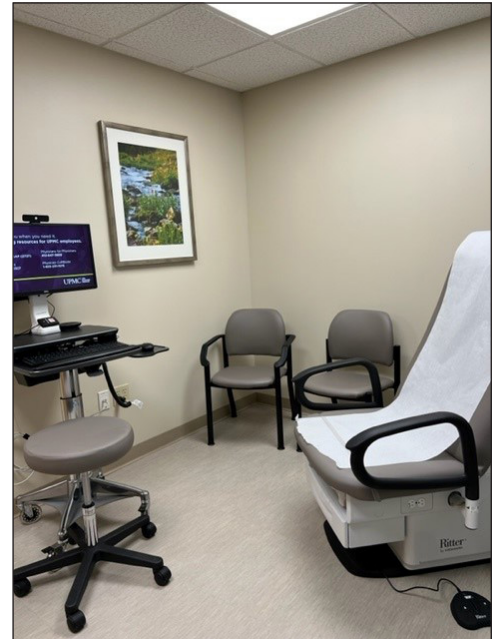
The UPMC Stroke Institute welcomed its first patient to their newest stroke clinic at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022. Located on the third floor of UPMC Mercy, the clinic features exceptional patient access with ADA accessibility, the expansion from four to eight spacious exam rooms, and ease of location in relation to Imaging Services and the NIR suite. The clinic was also blessed by Father John, a minister who resides in the chapel at UPMC Mercy.



Providers at this location include:

- Alhamza Al-Bayati, MD
- Nirav Bhatt, MD (start date 9-1-2022)
- Judy Dawod, MD
- Ali Fadhil, MD (start date 8-15-2022)
- Meghana Gackwad, MD (start date 8-1-2022)

- Okkes Kuybu, MD
- Aldo Mendez Ruiz, MD
- Raul Nogueira, MD
- Elissa K. Ortolani, MD
- Rebecca Pollard, MD
- Aaron Ravelo, MD
- Marcelo Rocha, MD, PhD
- Murat Sari, MD
- Matthew T. Starr, MD
- Neil Suryadevara, MD
- Danoushka Tememe, MD
- Sarah Wondisford, MD
- Kathryn Deep, PA-C
- Bethanne McCabe, CRNP
- Yang Song, PA-C



## **Kaniecki to Lecture on Secondary Headaches**

Robert G. Kaniecki, MD, director of the UPMC Headache Center and Senior Vice President of the World Headache Society (WHS), will give a lecture on secondary headaches as a part of the WHS Headache Medicine Course on July 24, 2022. If you are interested in registering for this course, please visit the World Headache Society website to learn more.



## **Goodbye to Dr. Narayanan...**

Sandra Narayanan, MD, FAHA, FANA, FSVIN, will leave UPMC this month. Dr. Narayanan joins the Pacific Neuroscience Institute in Los Angeles, in August – she will serve as the Director of Neurointerventional Radiology and Co-Director of the Comprehensive Stroke program at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California. In addition, she will be developing clinical research programs at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica and Burbank.

Dr. Narayanan contributed frequently to the Vascular Neurology and resident didactic and was a critical part of leadership in neurointervention programs; she chairs the SNIS Women in Neurointervention Committee and serves as the elected SNIS Interventional Neurology Member-At-Large.

Thank you to Dr. Narayanan for her service to UPMC and her patients, and we wish her luck in her future endeavors!



## UPMC Presbyterian & Mercy Recognized by American Heart Association

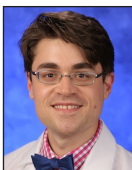
During the month of June, the stroke teams at UPMC Presbyterian and UPMC Mercy were recognized for their consistent hard work and outstanding patient care using the Get With The Guidelines program. Both hospitals were awarded GOLD PLUS with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus and Advanced Therapy. By becoming Achievement Award Hospitals, the American Heart Association officially recognizes the teams' use of the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve stroke patient care.

## New Faculty Members



**Mohamed Shehab-Eldin, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Neurointerventional Radiology



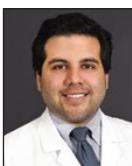
**Joseph Malone, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Behavioral/Cognitive Disorders



**Abby Lauren Olsen, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Movement Disorders



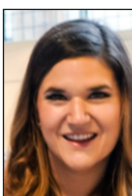
**Aaron Ravelo, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Stroke



**Alexandria Sadasivan, MD**

VAPHS General Inpatient and Outpatient Neurology & EMG



**Sarah Wondisford, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Stroke