

Neurology News & Notes

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Message from the Chair

As we transition from the rainy spring season into summer, I also see our Department's future as bright with a sunny forecast! This edition of *Neurology News & Notes* will continue the tradition of highlighting the accomplishments around our department and note upcoming events.



The Strategic Planning Retreat on Friday, May 6, was a great success! Thank you to every faculty member who participated by completing the pre-meeting survey, attending the pre-retreat virtually, and/or attending the retreat in person. I loved seeing the incredible amount of collaborative energy happening in each small group, and I know these ideas will be just the beginning of moving our Department forward on a positive trajectory.



Please remember there will be a special neurology faculty meeting to discuss the retreat outcomes on Wednesday, July 8, in Scaife Hall 1105A, from 4:30 – 5:30pm. There will be a Teams option available.



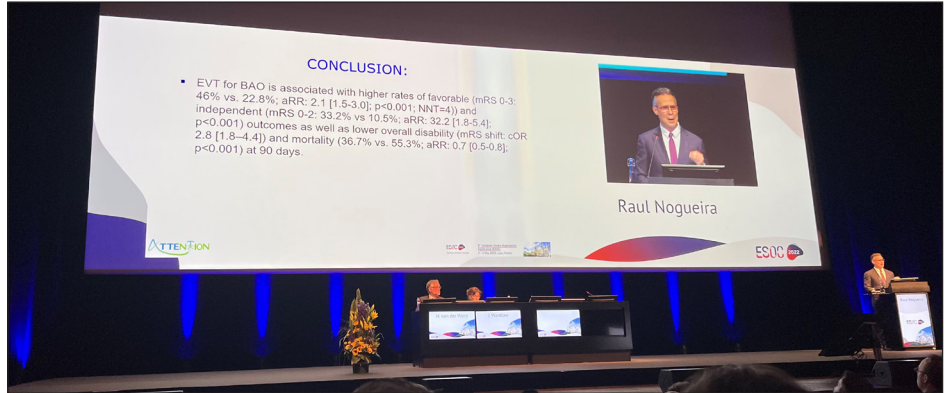
Enjoy reading the third edition of *Neurology News & Notes* and reach out to your colleagues to acknowledge their success!

Page B. Pennell, MD, FAES

Chair and Henry B. Higman Professor of Neurology

Nogueira Presents ATTENTION Study Results at ESOC 2022

Raul Nogueira, MD, presented favorable results on the study “Endovascular treatment for acute basilar artery occlusion: A multicenter randomized controlled trial (ATTENTION)” at the 2022 European Stroke Organisation Conference in Lyon, France. Dr. Nogueira is the Principal Investigator for this clinical trial.



The ATTENTION Study addressed the research question, “Stroke caused by a blockage in the basilar artery can be extremely devastating to the patient. Can endovascular treatment (EVT), also known as clot retrieval, improve the outcome of these patients?” Investigators recruited patients from thirty-six comprehensive stroke centers in China between February 2021 and January 2022; all patients were adults that presented with a blockage in the basilar artery confirmed with vascular imaging with twelve hours of stroke onset. The 3-month patient flow outline is shown below.

Overall, 340 patients (226 EVT and 114 BMM [best medical management]) were included in the final analysis. The primary outcome suggested that since there was a lower mortality rate in the EVT group, endovascular treatment not only reduced disability but also death.

SIGN UP: Stroke Institute Virtual Nursing Symposium

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

UPMC Stroke Institute Spring 2022 Virtual Nursing Symposium

Friday, June 10, 2022 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



Contact:
Megan Kennedy
UPMC Stroke Institute
Telephone: (412) 647-3030
Email: strokeconf@upmc.edu

Registration is free.
Scan to register
or learn more



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MEDICINE

UPMC Stroke Institute Spring 2022 Virtual Nursing Symposium

Friday, June 10, 2022 8:00am – 12:45pm



Check-in starts at 7:45am
Please log in 15mins prior to the first presentation

Agenda	
7:45am	Check-in
8:00am	Opening Remarks Stephanie Henry, MSN, RN
8:15am	State of the Art for Endovascular Stroke Therapy: Beyond the Guidelines Raul Nogueira, MD, FAHA, FSVIN
9:15am	Integrative Medicine Pearls and Stroke Bethanne McCabe, MS, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC, CNRN
10:15am	Break
10:30am	Decrypting Cryptogenic Stroke Matthew Starr, MD
11:30am	Cerebral Aneurysms Alhamza Al-Bayati, MD
12:30pm	Closing Remarks Stephanie Henry, MSN, RN
12:45pm	Adjournment

Accreditation

This activity is approved for the following credit: ANCC, and AAPA Category 1 CME. Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

Registration Information

Fees: No charge
Participants: UPMC and non-UPMC employees

How to Register Online

1. Visit our online registration site at <https://cce.upmc.com/upmc-stroke-institute-spring-2022>
2. Click the Register tab
3. Click Register/Complete Course
4. You will receive an email confirmation
5. Print the emailed confirmation for your records



Raul Nogueira, MD, FAHA, FSVIN
[Bio](#)



Bethanne McCabe, MS, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC, CNRN
[Bio](#)



Matthew Starr, MD
[Bio](#)



Alhamza Al-Bayati, MD
[Bio](#)



13 Faculty Members Listed as Top Docs

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology is proud to have 13 doctors on the Castle Connolly Top Doctors list, which is published annually in *Pittsburgh Magazine*. The Castle Connolly Top Doctor selection process is entirely merit-based, and the peer-to-peer nominations and research process ensure only the most qualified physicians are listed.

University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology Top Doctors 2022:

- Arun Raj Antony, MD
- Sarah B. Berman, MD, PhD
- Jan Drappatz, MD
- Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, MD
- J. Timothy Greenamyre, MD, PhD
- Rock A. Heyman, MD
- Robert G. Kaniecki, MD
- Laurie Knepper, MD
- David Lacomis, MD
- Erek M. Lam, MD
- Frank S. Lieberman, MD
- Valerie Suski, DO
- Alexandra Urban, MD

Thirumala Advocates for Neurology Aid on Capitol Hill

Partha Thirumala, MD, professor and director of the Center of Clinical Neurophysiology, was on Capitol Hill advocating for policies that will help improve neurologic care for both health care providers and patients as a part of the American Academy of Neurology's (AAN) 'Neurology on The Hill'. This is an effort where neurologists from across the country gather on Capitol Hill to urge Congress into enacting reforms to step therapy and prior authorization protocols so timely access to care can be ensured.



With the United States facing a shortage of between 37,800-124,000 physicians by 2034, supporting the neurology is more crucial now than ever. Dr. Thirumala, along with a group of other neurologists based in Pennsylvania, spoke with Pennsylvania Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) about policies such as reducing regulatory burden, expanding and strengthening telehealth opportunities, increasing resources and much more.

Neurology on the Hill is the best way neurologists are able to converge on Washington in order to meet with lawmakers and educate them about the critical role neurologists have in health care and why there is such a crucial need for reform and support.

Sign Up: EEG and Epilepsy in Clinical Practice Intensive

This program, led by Alexandra Urban, MD, and Anto Bagić, MD, PhD, is an opportunity for a wide range of professionals to expand their knowledge and improve neurologic competencies for providing care to patients with epilepsy and related conditions.

This course will take place July 8 - 10, 2022, and is designed to introduce the core tenets of clinical epilepsy and EEG; in addition, attendees will become familiar with pre-surgical evaluation techniques for drug resistant (DRE) epilepsies. Workshops are included at the end of each day facilitate audience participation.

The intended audience includes not only epileptologists, but neurocritical care specialists, psychiatrists, neurosurgeons, internal medicine and family practice physicians, advance practice providers, technologists and trainees in these disciplines.

If you or anyone you know is interested, visit the University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology website to learn more and register.



The Importance of Active Listening

At the end of May, Priya Cardone, DO, had a patient who was kind enough to leave some feedback about his experience. Mr. X's remark started out with, "You can tell Dr. Cardone is early on in her career," and when asked what he meant by this, he said:

"Well, she actually took the time to listen to me and talk about my problems, instead of rushing through the visit like the older docs tend to do. She was thorough and kind and I didn't feel like I had to be in a hurry. Plus, she speaks in language patients can actually understand, instead of using all that jargon like they do when they're tired of dealing with you."

Congratulations to Dr. Cardone on being a great example of active listening and attentive patient care!



Kenmuir Walks the Runway as Health Care Hero

Cynthia Kenmuir, MD, PhD, was recognized as a HealthCare Hero at the 8th Annual Blair Go Red for Women event in Altoona, PA. The American Heart Association sponsors annual fundraising events each May to support women's cardiovascular diseases as part of this initiative; this fundraising event in Altoona involved a fashion show. Dr. Kenmuir was honored as a HealthCare Hero for her work at UPMC Altoona treating stroke and neurointerventional patients – as such, she was a runway model for evening, dressed courtesy of the local Macy's spring line.

Since 2004, the Go Red for Women movement has educated millions of women about their number one threat: cardiovascular disease. This movement ensures that younger women and women of color especially are aware of this health threat, and what risks they can take to avoid them. Go Red for Women has grown into a positive, driving force in the word of healthy equity.

This was the most successful Go Red for Women event held in Altoona, with nearly 250 people in attendance and \$68,000 raised for the American Heart Association's mission "to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives".

Kirkpatrick Receives Epilepsy Study Consortium Mini-Grant from AES

The Epilepsy Study Consortium Mini-Grant application sent in by Laura Kirkpatrick, MD, was competitively scored and will be awarded by the American Epilepsy Society (AES).

Dr. Kirkpatrick's award is fully funded by the Epilepsy Study Consortium in the amount of \$22,000 and will be fully administered by AES. From this money, up to \$20,000 will go towards direct costs and up to \$2,000 will go to travel for the annual AES Meeting which takes places December 2-6, 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Kirkpatrick will receive complimentary AES membership and registration to the annual meeting; this provides access to valuable membership benefits such as online education content and professional development resources.

Dr. Kirkpatrick is currently a pediatric neurology resident at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and is considering an epilepsy fellowship after she finishes this program. Her aim is to conduct health services research regarding reproductive health care for adolescent and young adult women with epilepsy.

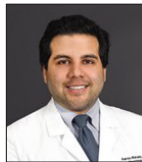
Incoming New Hires for July



Ruba Al-Ramadhania, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatric Neurology, Epilepsy
Emory University



Sarah Wondisford, MD
Assistant Professor, Stroke and NH
UPMC, Stroke Fellowship



Aaron Ravelo, MD
Stroke Division
University of Pittsburgh, Fellowship