



Neurology News & Notes

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Message from the Chair

As we transition into May, I'm proud to say that our department has had a productive and successful month of April. This edition of *Neurology News & Notes* highlights the accomplishments around our department and notes upcoming events.



Our department had a tremendous presence at the 2022 American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting. Thank you to all faculty and residents that were in Seattle and representing our department through abstracts, presentations, lectures, discussions or roundtables. Please visit the news section of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology website to see a full list of participants.

On Monday, April 4, the University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology held a successful reception in Seattle to help boost our visibility and recruitment efforts. In addition to current member and alumni presence, there was a substantial number of members from other institutions in attendance.



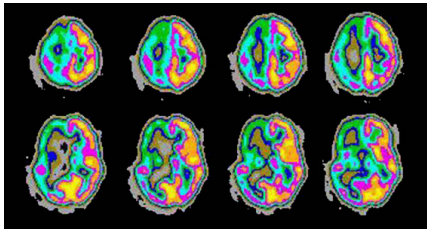
My best wishes for a fulfilling month of May – I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and reach out to your colleagues to congratulate them on their achievements.

*Page B. Pennell, MD, FAES
Chair and Henry B. Higman Professor of Neurology*

REMINDER: Faculty Retreat -- May 6

Please note that the Strategic Planning Retreat for the Department of Neurology is scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2022. Full faculty attendance is expected unless prior plans have been arranged with Dr. Pennell. There is no virtual option for this retreat.

The retreat will be held at the University Club from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; there will be a continental breakfast and lunch provided.



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.



Starr Wins “The Extra Mile” Award

Matthew T. Starr, MD, University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurology assistant professor and the associate director of the UPMC Stroke Institute, has been awarded the “The Extra Mile” Quarter 1 Award within UPMC Physician Services. The award is designed to recognize a staff member or physician who goes above and beyond in their duties, maintains a high office morale and actively demonstrates UPMC values.

Dr. Starr was nominated by not only one, but six, of his colleagues – they took care to note his impeccable work ethic, proficiency in patient care and general professionalism.

RLS Foundation Certifies UPMC as Quality Care Center

The Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) Foundation recently announced that it has certified the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) as an RLS Quality Care Center. As an RLS Quality Care Center, UPMC is now certified to provide expert care to patients who have restless legs syndrome, a chronic neurologic sleep disorder that often has a devastating impact on quality of life.



“We are honored to receive this designation,” said Avinash Aggarwal, MD, director of the Quality Care Center at UPMC. “Our goal is to provide the best and most comprehensive care for patients who have RLS. Designation as an RLS Quality Care Center certifies that we adhere to the highest standards of care and will identify us as having expertise to treat RLS at all levels of severity. We are particularly proud to be the first in our region to receive this designation.”

UPMC becomes the twelfth institution in the United States and Europe certified by the RLS Foundation as a Quality Care Center. Through this program, the Foundation aims



to improve diagnosis and treatment of the disease worldwide. RLS Quality Care Centers provide expert care to RLS patients; serve as information resources for regional support groups and for healthcare provider who treat patients with RLS; support patients and families through educational offerings and literature; and much more.

Recent Accreditations



A C G M E

The UPMC Neurocritical Care fellowship is one of the first of five national neurocritical care training programs accredited by The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Other institutions accredited are Baylor University, Stanford University, Montefiore Medical Center and The University of New Mexico.



The National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) has accredited University of Pittsburgh Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (UPCEC) as a Level 4 epilepsy center for 2022 and 2023. UPCEC is a joint program that combines the resources of the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Level 4 epilepsy centers have the professional expertise and facilities to provide the highest-level medical and surgical evaluation and treatment for patients with complex epilepsy.