

Alumni Spotlight
Dr. Cecily Cole Martin

What is your area of focus and educational background?

I graduated from Dartmouth College prior to attending and graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. I completed my neurology residency at the University of Pittsburgh, followed by a neurophysiology fellowship at the University of North Carolina.

How did your University of Pittsburgh/UPMC training prepare you for your current position?

I am grateful every day for my medical training at UPMC. My positive experience was influenced by the curriculum, culture and people. At the time of my matriculation, UPMC was one of few schools to teach in organ-based block curriculums, which was integrated with small-group problem-based learning. The combination exposed us to real patients/cases while simultaneously teaching the basic sciences of each organ. Exposure to clinical cases and the method of developing differential diagnoses is traditionally introduced in the third year of medical school, but as UPMC students, we were in this practice from day one. The culture was one of encouragement. From day one, professors were willing to help you dig deeper to solve a problem. Attending physicians pushed you to think about how our decisions affected real people.

What was your most memorable time as a Pitt resident?

There wasn't just one memorable time at Pitt—the whole experience was unique. However, I most enjoyed the outpatient clinic rotations, which most prepared me for my current practice. It introduced independent decision-making early during the residency and showed me how to establish the long-term relationships/follow-ups that are so important in neurology clinics.

What recommendations or advice would you give to an incoming trainee?

Pay attention to general neurology principles, especially if you plan on practicing in the community. Soak up “pearls” from sub specialists. Finally, breathe! When you finish, rest assured you are exquisitely prepared for delivering much needed care.

What was your favorite spot in Oakland to go to?

I am a foodie—so, Pittsburgh did not disappoint! I used to love the Spice Island Tea House. The Thai Iced tea was amazing!