

Main Offices

811 Kaufmann Medical Building
3471 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Chair
Page B. Pennell, MD

Vice Chairs

Paula R. Clemens, MD
Steven H. Graham, MD, PhD
J. Timothy Greenamyre, MD, PhD
Laurie Knepper, MD
Partha Thirumala, MD
Alexandra Urban, MD

Phone
412-692-4600

Website

neurology.pitt.edu

Twitter

pittneurology

Facebook

pitt.neurology

LinkedIn

university-of-pittsburgh-neurology

Communications**Coordinator**

Lauren Stanick
412-692-4616
stanickld@upmc.edu

Message from the Chair

As we continue through the month of February, I'm grateful to our faculty, trainees and staff as they have continued to provide high quality patient care through every facet of our department, innovate and advance research in neurologic diseases.

Interviews of UPMC Neurology resident applicants were just completed and we are hoping for a great Match year. Thank you to the many clinical & research faculty and the residents for taking time to recruit this next group of residents. The applicants particularly noted how engaging the residents were in their virtual evening group gatherings and how it really set our program apart! Special thank you to Samantha Kunvatanagarn and her team for providing such an organized and welcoming experience.

I also want to thank the many faculty and staff for their time and efforts in recruitment of new Neurology faculty. It is a particularly busy time of year as many make their decisions to join faculty in the summer/fall.

I am very excited about the future of our Department of Neurology - continuing to evolve it in a positive direction definitely takes a village!

With great appreciation,

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



Educational Achievements & Opportunities

Pollard Serves as Faculty Advisor for UPSOM Students' Neurobytes Educational Video

Emily In, Diana Mendoza-Cervantes and Dorothy Yam - medical students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine - were advised by Rebecca Pollard, MD, for their video "An Introduction to Large Vessel Occlusions". It was accepted to the Academy of Neurology's *NeuroBytes: Medical Student Series*. The group took on an educational role at a national level by researching the topic, writing a script and creating materials for the video.

The students chose this topic to make a video on because, "A significant number of acute ischemic strokes are caused by a large vessel occlusion (LVO) which is often associated with common 'cortical signs' on physical exam. Rapid assessment and triage of patients with LVO's is critical for ensuring that eligible patients receive acute reperfusion therapies for the best chances of a good functional outcome. In



Rebecca Pollard, MD

this video we aim to highlight and localize the mos common clinical symptoms seen with strokes caused by LVO’s”.

SIGN Subspecialty Panel

Date: February 23, 2023

Time and Location: 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Neurology faculty and fellow volunteers are participating in the Annual SIGN (Students Interested in Going into Neurology) Neurology Subspecialty panel. Many first and second-year Pitt School of Medicine students have expressed their interest in neurology. It’s an exciting time!

Headache: Laurie Kepper, MD

Movement Disorders: Edward A. Burton, MD, DPhil, FRCP

Multiple Sclerosis/Autoimmune Neurology: Ingrid Loma-Miller, MD

Neurocritical Care: Lori Shutter, MD

Neurorehabilitation: George F. Wittenberg, MD, PhD

Stroke/IR: Alhamza R. Al-Bayati, MD

Awards

Twelve Department Docs Named Top Doctors by Castle Connolly

Twelve Pitt Neurology physicians were named “Top Doctors” in the field of Neurology by Castle Connolly, an independent research group with the mission of helping people find the best healthcare. Castle Connolly Top Doctors are considered the best-in-class healthcare prviders who embody excellence in clinical care and interpersonal skills.

The research team at Castle Connolly evaluates important criteria, including professional qualifications, education, hospital and faculty appointments, research leadership, professional reputation, disciplinary history, interpersonal skills and outcomes. The department physicians on their list are:





Sarah B. Berman, MD, PhD



Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, MD



Ingrid Loma-Miller, MD

Milestones & Recognition

Congratulations to Sarah B. Berman, MD, PhD, who has been elected by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Executive Committee of the Faculty (comprised of all department chairs and elected members) as a member of the Committee for Tenured Faculty Promotions and Appointments (TFPA)! Beginning on January 1, Dr. Berman will serve a three-year term on the committee.

Congratulations to Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, MD, who was chosen to take part in the 2023 UPMC Physician Peer Coach Training program! This program was designed for UPMC to train, support and develop physician peer coaches.

Ingrid Loma-Miller, MD, recently did an interview with Univision, a prestigious television station among the Latin-American community. Dr. Loma-Miller talked about raising awareness for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the Latino community.

Funding & Career Development Opportunities

NOTE: *The following funding and development links can also be found on www.neurology.pitt.edu/research under the Funding and Career Development tab. To view the links listed here, please copy and paste the hyperlink into a web browser.*

Call for Beckwith Institute Research Grants

The Beckwith Institute is currently offering grants to fund leading-edge research to drive breakthroughs and create new health care treatments, tools and processes through their Clinical Transformation Program.

The grant program seeks to support projects in that include but aren't limited to:

- Clinicians, physicians and other researchers with new approaches and innovations in care
- Programs that encourage and foster current UPMC initiatives, including those with aggressive approaches to cancer, heart diseases, neuroscience, etc.
- Research that uses novel designs that get results efficiently and with rigor - these may include embedded and adaptive designs, rapid translation of science to care and/or novel applications of digital medicine.

If you seek to innovate and improve care, please apply for a Clinical Transformation Program grant. Applications will be accepted Monday, Feb. 13, to Sunday, March 19. Visit www.beckwithinstitute.org on February 13th to apply and view the details.

New NIH "FORMS-H" Grant Application Forms and Instructions Coming for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2023

(NOT-OD-22-195)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-195.html>

Review of the Accuracy of Grants Information for Fiscal Year 2022

(NOT-OD-22-194)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-194.html>

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Health of Bisexual and Bisexual+ People
(NOT-OD-22-166)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-166.html>

Advancing Research to Understand Congenital Malformations (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

(PAR-22-215)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-215.html>

Pediatric Scientist Development Program (PDSP) (K12 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

(RFA-HD-23-034)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-23-034.html>

Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence (U54 Clinical Trial Optional)
(RFA-HD-23-035)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-23-035.html>

Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence Data Innovation and Coordinating Hub/Resource Center (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

(RFA-HD-23-036)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-23-036.html>

Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence Implementation Science Hub/Resource Center (U24 Clinical Trial Optional)

(RFA-HD-23-037)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-23-037.html>




