Dr. Roger Rosenberg takes center stage at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Vancouver for interview on the history of neurology.

From the Chair
Mark Goldberg, M.D.

In our Spring Newsletter, we share with you the recent faculty and advanced practice provider promotions. We also recap our department’s many contributions at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology held this year in Vancouver.

Plus, an update from Dr. Ben Greenberg on Southwestern Access to Neurology, or SWAN, our department’s initiative to expand clinical care. We also tell you about our nursing staff’s contributions at the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses Annual Meeting, and we will introduce you to many of our new staff members.

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Faculty promotions announced for 2016

Message from Dr. Goldberg: “I am thrilled to announce that six of our friends and colleagues have been recommended for promotion. Effective September 1, we will have three new Associate Professors and three new Professors. Please join us in thanking these individuals for their years of outstanding service and congratulating them on this important recognition! We have also appointed three new faculty members as Associate and Full Professors.”

The following faculty members have been recommended by the Promotion and Tenure Committee for promotion, effective September 1, 2016.

Pravin Khemani, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (clinician-educator track.)

Sharon P. Nations, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (clinician-educator track.)

Padraig Eoin O’Suilleabhain, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (clinician-educator track.)

Edward Pan, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (clinician-educator), Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery (secondary appointment), and Associate Professor of the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center (secondary appointment.)

Deepa Sirsi, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Pediatrics (clinician-educator track), and Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment.)

Olaf Stuve, M.D., Ph.D., to the rank of Professor with Tenure of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (tenure track.)
The following new faculty members received appointments through actions of the ad hoc Promotion and Tenure Committee in the 2015-16 academic year.

Mustafa Husain, M.D., re-appointed to the rank of Professor with Tenure of Psychiatry (clinical scholar track), and Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment.)

Imran Khawaja, M.D., appointed to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry (clinician-educator track), and Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment.)

Bert Vargas, M.D., appointed to the rank of Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (clinician-educator track.)

Neurology Clinic at Aston expanding: a message from Dr. Ben Greenberg, SWAN Team Lead

A message from Dr. Ben Greenberg, who is leading the Southwestern Access to Neurology (SWAN) team. [Other members of the team are Dr. Jaya Trivedi, Medical Director - Neurology Clinic, and Dr. Pravin Khemani, leader of the SWAN implementation team.]

In the summer of 2015, the Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics was tasked with developing a new model of care delivery for the population of patients we serve that would augment access while preserving quality. This plan had to balance our commitments to excellent clinical care, education, and research. Recognizing that the demand for our services is significantly larger than the ‘supply,’ our department came together to formulate strategies that would lessen this gap. Space needs, staffing needs, care models, and new workflows were identified that could significantly augment our access. Since that time, the department has been working on plans in all of these areas and we are in the final stages of implementation.

First, space was identified as a critical need for expanding access. We identified clinical care space on Aston’s 8th floor that could be utilized by our department. After a series of steps are completed over the summer, the General Neurology, Epilepsy, and Headache sections will have dedicated outpatient space on Aston 8, while Neuromuscular, Movement Disorders, Stroke, and Memory Disorders will remain on Aston 4.

Expansion of our staffing has been undertaken at all levels. We brought on more staff, nurses, advanced practice providers, and physicians in many of our sections. We also engaged our team in new ways to identify the most efficient workflow for moving patients through their care experience. With all of these efforts under way, we continue to work with our referring providers to ensure we get patients in as quickly and easily as possible. We are working to break down the barriers to care, wherever and whenever we can. The SWAN initiative has lead to some remarkable changes in our department that will translate into care being provided to a larger number of patients who are seeking our services.
Dr. Roger Rosenberg contributes experience to oral history of neurology at AAN Annual meeting

The AAN Board of Directors invited Dr. Roger Rosenberg to be interviewed as part of the AAN History of Neurology Series. The series provides insights and comments from AAN members who have been involved in leadership positions with the AAN and in American neurology.

Dr. Rosenberg is a past president of the AAN (1991-93); past first vice-president of American Neurological Association (1986); Editor-in-Chief of JAMA Neurology for twenty years, former Chair of Neurology at UT Southwestern (1973-91); Principal Investigator of the NIH-Funded Alzheimer’s Disease Center at UT Southwestern (1988 to present); and Senior Editor of "Rosenberg’s Molecular and Genetic Basis of Neurological and Psychiatric Disease", 5th Edition (2015).

Three neurology faculty inducted as AAN Fellows

Drs. Shilpa Chitnis, Michael Dowling and Ben Greenberg were inducted at a ceremony during the 2016 annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology as Fellows. Fellow status acknowledges exemplary work and achievements in the neurosciences, the clinical practice of neurology or academic/administrative neurology.
Faculty, Residents, and Fellows at the AAN

Venkatesh Aiyagari, M.D., gave an invited lecture titled, “Cerebrovascular Disease II: Hemorrhagic Stroke.”

Shilpa Chitnis, M.D., Ph.D., gave a talk on atypical parkinsonism as part of the movement disorders course for general neurologists. She is also the newly elected Vice-Chair for the Movement Disorders Section at AAN and was co-leader of the section’s meeting along with the Chair, Dr. Irene Litvan.

Benjamin M. Greenberg, M.D., MHS, directed a course on myelopathies. Speakers included experts from around the U.S. including UT Southwestern’s Karen McCain from Allied Health.

Michael Rubin, M.D., attended the Ethics Section meeting as the group’s new Vice-Chair.

Steven Vernino, M.D., Ph.D., directed the popular and long-running course, Assessment of Rapidly Progressive Dementias and Related Neurologic Conditions II.

Bert Vargas, M.D., (below) co-hosted Neurobowl at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting. He also gave an “iTalk” on the AAN’s electronic media tools.

Posters

Zabeen Mahuwala, M.D., “Does a 2-Hour EEG Tell Us More Than a 30-Minute EEG?”


Afsaneh Shirani, M.D., “Impairments in finger tapping the distal thumb crease on the non-dominant side are highly sensitive for identifying upper motor neuron lesions.”
UT Southwestern Neuroscience Nurses share expertise at national conference

A contingent of UT Southwestern neuroscience nurses made big contributions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. The meeting was held in New Orleans in April 2016 and was called “Imparting the Wisdom of Patient-Centered Neuroscience Nursing.”

DaiWai Olson, Ph.D., RN, gave three platform presentations: “Getting Published,” “Stump the Chumps,” and “The Language of Data.”

Dr. Olson is also the co-editor of the AANN’s journal, JAAN.

Michael Rogers, BSN, RN, led the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation (AMWF) Research Session. The foundation is an affiliate of the AANN and is dedicated to supporting neuroscience nursing through education, research, professional development and certification. Rogers holds a grant from AMWF.

Mandy Dirickson, MS, ANP-C, APRN, SCRN, gave the platform presentation, “The Simple Facts of Cerebral Vasculities.”

Dirickson also gave a talk at the first annual “Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Conference,” sponsored by the Texas Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council. The conference was held in Austin on May 6. Among the attendees were stroke survivors from across Texas.

Dirickson’s talk was “Let’s Not Do This Again! How to Avoid Another Stroke.” (Dirickson is PI for the HER-Stroke trial designed to reduce the risk of stroke in women.)

Michael Dowling, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology & Neurotherapeutics, also gave a lecture in Austin. It was titled, “Stroke Recovery Among Children.”

Michael Levy, MS, ACNP, APRN, gave a platform presentation on “Malignant Brain Tumors” and a special lecture titled “Oh, the Places You Will Go!” about the journey of neuroscience nursing and the challenges of work/life balance.
UT Southwestern Medical Center has joined an international consortium of leading universities to study the effectiveness of various stroke treatments from the patient’s perspective.

PROSPER (Patient-Centered Research into Outcomes Stroke Patients Prefer and Effectiveness Research) is a multicenter study of thousands of stroke survivors comparing the effectiveness of certain treatments and their impacts on: stroke recurrence, survival, hospital readmission, functional status, depression, fatigue, and quality of life. One of the first projects awarded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, PROSPER aims to ensure that research findings provide useful information to help patients make individualized, informed decisions.

“Prior studies have not addressed the full range of benefits or harms given the personal characteristics, conditions, and preferences of most stroke survivors,” said Dr. DaiWai Olson, Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics, and Neurological Surgery at UT Southwestern and principal investigator for the UTSW trial site. “Although we are only halfway to recruiting study participants, we are already gleaning valuable data.”

The PROSPER study includes stroke patients as study collaborators, such as Deidre Hannah, a former UT Southwestern rehabilitation patient. “I just hope the work of PROSPER will improve treatment for stroke patients,” Ms. Hannah said.

UT Southwestern’s stroke program, a component of the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, has been one of the largest enrollment sites for the Duke University-led study that launched in 2013.

One of the first published studies found that stroke patients with atrial fibrillation who were treated with the anticoagulant warfarin after their stroke fared better than other stroke patients.

The study examined outcomes of 12,552 trial participants, 88 percent of whom were treated with warfarin. Those receiving warfarin were less likely to experience another major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE), and spent more time at home vs. hospitalized. While warfarin has been used to prevent stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation, the use and clinical benefit of warfarin for atrial fibrillation had not been well-defined, especially among older ischemic stroke patients. That paper, published recently in the journal BMJ, was co-authored by Dr. Olson.

Nursing student Guilla Santos was the first ever undergraduate recipient of the Texas Woman’s University “Chancellor’s Research Scholar Award.” (The award is usually given to a graduate student.)

Guilla recently completed an Engaged Nursing Students Partnering In the Research Experience (ENSPIRE) internship with the UTSW Neuroscience Nursing Research Center. ENSPIRE is a one-year internship program that involves nursing students in various research projects.

Guilla has accepted a position as a staff nurse at UTSW.
Steven Vernino, M.D., Ph.D., has been selected, along with a small number of colleagues at UT Southwestern, to receive one of the highest honors awarded by the UT System, the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award.

“It is a great tribute to Dr. Vernino’s many years of dedication to advancing education and training across the department,” said Dr. Mark Goldberg.

Dr. Vernino is Director of the Residency Program and Academic Vice Chair for the Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics.

Shilpa Chitnis, M.D., Ph.D., has taken on a new role for our Academic Programs. Dr. Chitnis has been named Director of Neurology Fellowship Programs. She will continue to build world-class fellowships that provide excellent education for all of our trainees.

Our MS/Neuroimmunology Program, led by Elliott Frohman, M.D., Ph.D., received a 5-year fellowship grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to help train the next generation of clinical and academic leaders in the field. The grant highlights the outstanding national reputation of our program. Congratulations to the entire MS team.

Neurology Research Days 2016

Our department held its 2nd Annual Research Days on May 6 and May 13, 2016. The event features the culmination of our residents’ and fellows’ research efforts with platform and poster presentations as well as a Distinguished Alumni Speaker. This year’s guest speaker was Dr. Svjetlana Miocinovic, UC-San Francisco. (picted on right.)
Paul W. Hurd, M.D., joins neurology staff at Dallas VA

By Julie Kirchem, Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics

Dr. Paul Hurd, who was in private practice for more than thirty years in Plano, Texas, has joined the Dallas VA Medical Center as Vice-Chief of Neurology.

Dr. Hurd, Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics at UT Southwestern, attended Southwestern Medical School and then completed Internal Medicine and Neurology residencies at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center - San Antonio.

After graduation, he went into private practice in Plano with Dr. Jacob Wolfman for the next 17 years and then formed a new group called Texas Neurology Consultants. Not too long ago, Dr. Hurd considered retirement.

“I had a very busy and successful practice that I loved, but frankly, after all those years, I became a little tired of the business aspects of medicine like dealing with the insurance industry,” he said.

But in the fall of 2014, his plans changed when Dr. Olaf Stuve contacted him about a position at the Dallas VA.

“I discussed the career change with my former chairman, Dr. Donald Easton, who strongly suggested that I consider getting back into academics and potentially passing on some of my experience to the next generation of neurologists,” said Dr. Hurd.

In addition to taking on the role of Vice-Chief of Neurology at the Dallas VA, Dr. Hurd is also serving as educational liaison to UT Southwestern Medical School for students and residents. His other responsibilities at the VA include interim electroencephalographer and running a botulinum toxin clinic for veterans with chronic migraine.

“I feel honored that he has chosen neurology as a profession,” said Dr. Hurd (senior). “He is a very kind and compassionate young man and I think he will make a good child neurologist.”

Outside of work, Dr. Hurd is an avid road bicyclist and typically rides more than 4000 miles per year. For the past 5 years, he has been involved in riding and fundraising for the “Dallas to Fort Worth Bike MS.” He has raised more than $15,000 for MS.

The Mobility Foundation Center is excited to announce its second official request for proposals. We have refocused our mission to support innovative, early-stage translational and clinical research in stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and other disorders that may limit mobility.

Proposal Requirements:

Address the mission of the Mobility Foundation in its population or aims.

Have a UT Southwestern faculty member as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

Include sections on methods, personnel, budget, timeline, plans for future grant application or application of findings, biosketches of the investigators, and a bibliography.

For further details, please contact JessicaR.Moreno@utsouthwestern.edu.

Applications due: June 30
Announcement of Award(s): August 1
Proposal Start Date: September 1

Please email completed applications to mobilitycenter@utsouthwestern.edu
Welcome to Neurology!

Nakeeta Agnew  
Clinic Staff Assistant I

Valeria Amaya  
Billing Specialist I

Juliana Atem  
Nurse Practitioner

David Andrade  
Billing Specialist I

Giselle Chery  
Research Technician II

Brandi Ciufi, APN  
Neurocritical Care

Jennifer Fehmel  

Tanya Jackson  
Clinic Staff Assistant I

Mahima Gurung  
Clinic Staff Assistant I

Geoffroy Alessi-Higgins  
Ambulatory RN

Miracle Freeman  
Ambulatory RN

Ryan Goer  
Ambulatory Licensed Vocational Nurse

Cecilia Hernandez  
Research Study Coord. NTRC

Julia Kincaide  
Clinical Data Specialist

Rebecca Logan, PA  
Cognitive and Memory

Shanita McHaney  
Ambulatory Licensed Vocational Nurse

Loni McLamore  
Clinic Staff Assistant I

Maria Martinez  
Research Study Coord.

Christina Mendoza  
Ambulatory RN

Monserrat Moncada  
Clinic Staff Assistant I
Welcome to Neurology!

Employees Celebrating Service Milestones

UT Southwestern and our department are grateful for the talent, energy and time that our employees contribute. We honored those employees celebrating 5-year milestones at a department lunch.

One of our employees, Lisa Renee Horton, was also honored by UT Southwestern for her 25 years of service. Lisa is a Senior Administrative Assistant, providing support for our epilepsy faculty.

25-Year Milestone
Lisa Renee Horton, Sr. Administrative Assistant

20-Year Milestone
Debra Clamp, Clinic Manager

15-Year Milestone
Sandra Kemp
Annette Smith

10-Year Milestone
Amy Conger
Jennifer Fehmel

5-Year Milestone
Abner Figueroa
Audrey Keech
Julie Kirchem
Shunan Liu
Regina McGary
Karen Merriman
Kayla Reed
Jeffrey Schneider
Matthew Stowe
Kiana Walker
Alumni Reception at AAN Meeting

We would like to extend a big thank you to Dr. Anne Lipton for graciously hosting our Annual Alumni Reception in her beautiful home in Vancouver. Brain cake!