Greetings Neurology Applicants!

On behalf of the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine we would like to introduce you to our Residency program. As the second largest Residency program in the country, and one of the most respected clinical neurology and neuroscience departments in the nation, we are committed to excellence in the areas of clinical teaching, research and education. We have expanded our program to 42 residents (and 19 Fellows) seeking highly qualified applicants.

The mission of the Department is threefold—to provide unparalleled care to patients; to expand knowledge of the causes, treatments, and cures for neurological disease; and to train the next generation of clinicians and neuroscientists.

Widely recognized as an international referral center, neurologists from Latin America, Florida, and the rest of the United States, consistently turn to our 65 faculty members (46 clinical, 19 research) for expertise in solving complex neurological problems. The department is comprised of clinical divisions, research laboratories, clinical laboratories, and research centers including:

- National Parkinson’s Foundation Center of Excellence
- Kessenich Family MDA ALS Center
- McKnight Brain Institute for Memory Disorders
- Brain Endowment Bank for Pathology
- Sleep Disorders Center
- International Center for Epilepsy

In 2008, we established our state-of-the-art Neuro-Intensive Care service (24-beds), and plans are underway for additional growth in a variety of areas.

The depth and breadth of clinical exposure make UM/Jackson an ideal place to train. We invite you to learn more about our program by reading this newsletter and visiting our website:

http://neurology.med.miami.edu

Sincerely yours,

Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN
Chair, Department of Neurology
President-Elect of the American Academy of Neurology

Leticia Tornes, MD
Director, Neurology Residency Program
Assistant Professor, Clinical Neurology
Dr. Michael Benatar was born and raised in South Africa, where he also attended medical school. As a Rhodes Scholar he then completed a PhD in neuroscience at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. This training abroad explains the unusual letters behind his name: MBChB (MD) and DPhil (PhD). He then completed a neurology residency and neuromuscular fellowship, both at Harvard, and a Masters in the Science of Clinical Research at Emory University, where he was on the faculty for about 8 years. Dr. Benatar joined the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami in 2010 as Walter Bradley Chair in ALS Research and the Chief of the Neuromuscular Division, which comprises 6 faculty members with specialized clinical programs in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy and inherited neuropathies, as well as electromyography (EMG) and neuromuscular pathology. In addition to these clinical services, the neuromuscular division is home to very active investigator-initiated, clinical and translational research programs focused on ALS, myasthenia gravis and inherited neuropathies. The neuromuscular faculty is well known for their commitment to resident education, with most faculty having received teaching awards in recent years. All neurology residents participate in the aforementioned programs and acquire hands-on experience performing electrodiagnostic studies through a formal month-long neuromuscular rotation. The Neuromuscular Division also offers clinical and research fellowships, and there is ample opportunity for residents to get involved in ongoing research projects.

Hi everyone! I was born and raised in Arequipa, Peru, where I acquired a deep love for neuroscience. At the Department of Functional Neurosurgery at UCLA, I authored several publications on the use of molecular imaging for brain tumors and nanotechnology for movement disorders. While exploring options for residency training, the reputation of high-level patient complexity and hands-on clinical and research training at the University of Miami Neurology program stood out. A clinical elective with the Neurology Service convinced me that this was the place to best combine my interests in becoming a superior clinician, teacher and scientist. After interviewing all over the country, I realized that this was a very rare and special combination! Since starting residency here, I expanded on my interest in clinical research as part of the Resident Clinician Research Track, which has honed my skills to the point that I can capably conduct independent research. With the expert mentorship of Drs. Kanner, Singer, Benatar, Adams and Luca, this has translated into multiple peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and national presentations. Serving as a Chief Resident has now provided the unique opportunity to develop student and resident educational activities. Taking this all together with the amazing sense of true friendship among the faculty and residents, I simply love this program and I hope that you will too!
Recent Graduate Spotlight: Shnehal Patel, MD, MPH

I came to UM as a visiting student July of my 4th year of medical school and needless to say I was completely blown away. It wasn’t just the breadth of neurologic diseases that sold me on this program; it was ability to work with an incredible group of peers and attendings that became mentors and family. Throughout my 4 years as a resident at UM not only did I gain the medical knowledge and clinical skills to become a confident neurologist, I gained a family that will last a lifetime. This is truly the best group of mentors to work with and learn from. Resident education is a top priority for every faculty member and I can truly say I learned something new every single day at work. As Chief Resident, I had the opportunity to work with my fellow residents and the administrative staff to develop leadership skills that I hope to carry with me in my future career. The job came easily when you have a residency program director and coordinator whose priority is to make sure their residents are happy. As a movement disorders fellow at the Cleveland Clinic, I can say that UM really did prepare me to be able to conquer any challenge that comes my way. I feel confident with my clinical skills and knowledge base to take on challenging cases here at the Clinic and can proudly tell my patients that I trained at UM. I hope all of you future residents have the same incredible experience that I had. Good luck on your future endeavors!

Quick Stats about our Program:

- **Recent Fellowship Placements:**
  - Vascular Neurology (Columbia, Harvard, BIDMC, UCSF, U Penn, UCLA, University of Texas, U Miami)
  - Clinical Electrophysiology (Johns Hopkins, NYU, U Miami)
  - Neuromuscular Medicine (Washington University, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Harvard, Cleveland Clinic, OH, U Miami)
  - Neuro-Critical Care (Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins University, UCSF)
  - Neuro-Ophthalmology (Bascom Palmer, U Miami)
  - Movement Disorders (UM, Cleveland Clinic, OH)
  - Pain Medicine (Harvard, U Miami)
  - Behavioral Neurology (Columbia, Northwestern, U of Florida)

- **In-Service Exam Results:**
  - 85th%-tile nationally (Clinical Adult Neurology)

- **Number of Residents:**
  - 42

- **Number of Fellows:**
  - 19

- **NIH Funding, National Rank:**
  - #13

- **USMLE scores (2014):**
  - Step 1 (range): 217-265
  - Step 2 (range): 222-272

- **Fellowships Offered at U Miami:**
  - Vascular Neurology, 3 spots/year (ACGME)
  - Neuromuscular Medicine, 1 spot/year (ACGME)
  - Sleep Medicine, 3 spots/year (ACGME)
  - Clinical Electrophysiology, 3 spots/year (ACGME)
  - Epilepsy, 1 spot/year (ACGME)
  - Neuro-Critical Care, 2 spots/year (UCNS)
  - Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology, 1 spot/year
  - Movement disorders, 1 spot/year
  - Headache, 1 spot/year
  - Neuro-Interventional, 1 spot every other year

Welcome Picnic 2015

AAN 2015
Faculty Spotlight: Andres Kanner, MD, FANA

Dr. Andres Kanner, MD, FANA is a Professor of Clinical Neurology, Chief of the Epilepsy Division and Director of our Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. Dr. Kanner was born and raised in Mexico. He came to the United States in 1977, where he completed Residency trainings in Psychiatry and Neurology, followed by a fellowship in Epilepsy and Clinical Neurophysiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Kanner is boarded in Neurology, Psychiatry, Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy. He joined our Faculty in January 2013. The Epilepsy Division has 8 Faculty members and provides comprehensive evaluation and management at the outpatient clinics and at the inpatient video-EEG monitoring units in Jackson Memorial Hospital (level IV), University of Miami Hospital (level IV) and the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital (Epilepsy Center of Excellence). The Epilepsy team provides continuous video-EEG monitoring coverage for all cases of status epilepticus (24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week in all 3 institutions). In addition, patients undergo comprehensive evaluation to establish the type of epilepsy syndrome, formulate a treatment plan, including epilepsy surgery. All residents enjoy rotating through our services in the course of their training. During the rotations, residents participate in weekly didactic conferences in addition to direct patient care.

Recent Graduate Spotlight: Lucien Alexandre, MD, PhD

As an undergraduate student, I studied Neural Science at NYU. Before then, I knew that medicine was my calling but I never realized how much I would come to enjoy research centered around the brain and nervous system. Those experiences sealed the deal and from then on I sought to combine my two passions, research and medicine. After completing an MD, PhD at Einstein, I wanted to find a residency program that would continue to foster my interests in research along with a burgeoning interest interventional pain management. I believe the Neurology program at UM is a unique training program and truly provided me with the skills and confidence to tackle some of the most complicated cases. I sought a residency program that would give me the opportunity to engage in cutting edge research. The Resident Clinician Researcher Track allowed me to participate in pain and stroke neurology projects with some of the World’s leading experts. The combination of unparalleled clinical training and research led the way for me to be accepted to one of the most competitive fellowship training subspecialties and programs in the country, Interventional pain medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. These are exciting times both in the field of Neurology and at the Neurology program at UM/Jackson. Best of luck throughout the interview process!

Faculty Spotlight: Dileep Yavagal, MD

Dr. Dileep R. Yavagal, MD is Director of Interventional Neurology and Co-Director of Neuroendovascular Surgery and Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the University of Miami & Jackson Memorial Hospitals. Dr. Yavagal is an international leader in endovascular therapy for ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. He is considered a pioneering researcher the field of intra-arterial (IA) delivery of stem cells in stroke therapy. He is the immediate Past-President of the Society for Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN). Dr. Yavagal has received several state and federal research grants to study endovascular stem cell therapies for ischemic stroke using small and large animal models of stroke in his research laboratory. Currently, he is the leading investigator on the steering committee of the first US multicenter clinical trial of IA delivery of autologous bone marrow stem cells for ischemic stroke, RECOVER Stroke. He was one of the investigators on the steering committee of the MR RESCUE trial. He is also a steering committee member of the currently ongoing SWIFT-Prime randomized clinical trial of endovascular stroke therapy.
Faculty Spotlight: Leticia Tornes, MD

Dr. Leticia Tornes is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology, Director of the Residency Program and part of the Multiple Sclerosis and Epilepsy Divisions. Dr. Tornes was born and raised in Miami. She attended the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, followed by Neurology Residency, where she was chief resident, followed by Fellowships in Clinical Neurophysiology and Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology. Dr. Tornes is board certified in Neurology and Epilepsy. She joined our Faculty in July 2011 and was Associate Program Director for one year. She took over as Program Director in April of 2013. Clinically, she evaluates and treats epilepsy patients and patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). Her particular clinical interests include women with epilepsy and cognitive dysfunction in multiple sclerosis. Her research interests currently focus on MS and she is involved in 16 clinical trials with the MS division, including one where she is the principal investigator evaluating a medical food for the treatment of cognitive issues in MS. Having trained at the University of Miami in recent years, Dr. Tornes has firsthand experience with our residency program. This provides the residents with the unique opportunity to work with a true resident advocate that strives to make our program the very best!

Class Representatives

Ye Hu, MD
Class of 2018

Manuel Melo Bicchi, MD
Universidad Iberoamericana, Dominican Republic
Class of 2018

Ima Ebong, MD, MS
University of Kentucky
Class of 2017

Nicole Beaton, MD
Boston University
Class of 2017

Recent Graduate Spotlight: Carly Oboudiyat, MD

I have one reason that towers over the rest of why I chose UM: the people! When I was applying for residency, I was given advice that I would get a good gestalt for each program on my interview day. I was skeptical of that advice until I arrived in Miami, and met the residents, Faculty, administration, and leadership of UM Neurology. I was not disappointed. Each day of my residency, not only would we challenge each other with interesting cases and clinical questions, but we would share a good laugh or two. I created a lasting foundation of neurology, leadership skills, and friendships over the last four years that has carried me into my career in academic neurology. I was able to work closely with my research mentors and complete research as well as publications that I was able to present at a platform presentation at the AAN.

I am in the second year of a clinical research fellowship in neurobehavior at Northwestern under one of the preeminent behavioral neurologists, Dr. Mesulam. So I will pass the same advice I received: choose your residency based on where you felt most like yourself during your interview.

Good Luck!
For more information and application information, visit our website: http://neurology.med.miami.edu. Our main Residency page and Frequently Asked Questions section cover a variety of topics, and the Campus Tour and Photos and Life in Miami sections will provide details about living in South Florida. If you have additional questions, our program manager Andrea Ruiz, our 2015-2016 Administrative Chief Residents, our Program Director Dr. Tornes, and our Associate Program Director Dr. Dib are all happy to help. Good luck!
University of Miami
Jackson Memorial Medical Center

Department of Neurology
Class of 2016

Michael Basseyn, MD
Neurophysiology

Marcella Coutts, MD
Neurophysiology
Neurocritical care

Jose Gonzalez, MD
Neuroimmunology

Jason Margolesky, MD, MS
Movement Disorders

Anjali Ramkissoon, MD
Headache
Sleep Medicine

Ai Sumida, MD
Epilepsy

Shawna Benard, MD, MPH
Epilepsy

George “Matt” Dillon, MD
Vascular Neurology

Karlo J. Lizarraga, MD, MS
Neurophysiology
Movement disorders

Mohammad Qureshi, MD
Pain Medicine

Lindsey Neimand, MD
Movement Disorders

Anita Tipirneni, MD
Vascular Neurology
The Neurology Resident Clinician Researcher Program is aimed to provide residents with necessary faculty mentorship, administrative guidance, infrastructure and research facilities in order to pursue rewarding clinical and basic neuroscience research during residency. It is expected that a research track resident will become conversant in research techniques and will accumulate enough data to submit a career development grant (e.g. NIH K08) upon graduation.

While ~25% of our residents already hold graduate degrees, the program also provides flexibility for residents without a Ph.D. or M.S. to pursue advanced research training. Once accepted, residents are given a stipend for grant seminars, conference travel etc., and are provided extra educational opportunities to succeed in basic and clinical research. Over the last 4 years, our residents have published more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, and several have recently been involved in the Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS), the first prospective cohort study among Whites, African Americans, and Caribbean Hispanics to investigate the risks and determinants of stroke and help fill gaps in our knowledge of the epidemiology of stroke and vascular disease in minority populations. This NIH study was founded at Columbia University by Dr. Sacco and is one of a myriad of projects at UM.

**Faculty Spotlight: Tanja Rundek, MD, PhD**

Dr. Tatjana Rundek joined the University of Miami in May of 2007 and is currently Professor of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She also maintains an adjunct research faculty position in Neurology at the Neurological Institute at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She serves as a Chair of Clinical Translational Research in Neurology and Director of our Clinical Translational Research Division. Her research is directed towards the use of ultrasound for early detection, intervention and prevention of functional and structural changes of arterial wall inflammation. She is PI and co-investigator on multiple NIH grants, and has received foundation support to study the relationship between vascular risk factors, subclinical atherosclerosis, genetics and stroke. She also investigates sex-specific disparities in stroke. She is a fellow of the ANA, a member of the American Heart Association and AAN. She is President of the Neurosonology Communities of Practice of the American Institute in Ultrasound in Medicine, the largest professional medical ultrasound organization in the US. Dr. Rundek serves on the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Vascular Testing Board of Directors, a national organization that accredits clinical ultrasound, echocardiography, nuclear/PET, MRI, CT and carotid stenting programs.

**Resident Spotlight: Anita Tipirneni, MD**

Hello Applicants!

I spent many years studying research and neuroscience. When I decided on residency in Miami, I knew I would have great clinical training through our diverse and abundant patient population. However, I have also been able to further my research career. Through the research track I have participated in special educational activities and have been mentored by top clinical researchers. These experiences have allowed me to produce and present original research projects at national meetings. As a senior resident I now foster research activities among the junior residents and teach evidence-based neurology. My combined training in clinical neurology and research have allowed me to match into a top fellowship in vascular neurology at UCLA. I am very excited for this upcoming opportunity and am grateful to UM Neurology for getting me here.

Through these years I have also been able to make new lifelong friends and enjoy the perks of living in Miami!

Hope you enjoy this interview season and consider all UM Neurology has to offer.

Good luck!
Faculty Spotlight: Ralph L. Sacco, MD

Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, is the Chairman of Neurology, Olemberg Family Chair in Neurological Disorders, Miller Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences, Human Genetics and Neurosurgery, Executive Director of the Evelyn McKnight Brain Institute at the Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, and Chief of the Neurology Service at Jackson Memorial Hospital, as well as President-elect of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). He was the first neurologist to become president of the American Heart Association (AHA), and was previously Professor of Neurology, Chief of Stroke and Critical Care Division, and Associate Chairman at Columbia University.

Dr. Sacco is the PI of the NINDS-funded NOMAS, the FL-Puerto Rico Collaboration to Reduce Stroke Disparities, and the Family Study of Stroke Risk and Carotid Atherosclerosis, as well as co-investigator of multiple other NIH grants. He has also been the Co-Chair of international stroke treatment and prevention trials.

Dr. Sacco has published extensively with over 425 peer-reviewed articles and 102 invited articles. His research has also addressed stroke and vascular disparities. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and has lectured extensively at national and international areas of stroke prevention, treatment, epidemiology, risk factors, vascular cognitive impairment, human genetics and stroke recurrence.

Faculty Spotlight: Kristine O’Phelan, MD

Dr. Kristine O’Phelan received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in neurology at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital and fellowship training in Neurotrauma and Neurocritical Care at UCLA. Her major subspecialty interest is in critical care of neurotrauma, subarachnoid hemorrhage and multimodality monitoring.

She currently directs the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital, one of the largest neuro-ICUs in the country and has a busy, high-acuity service.

Dr. O’Phelan has been honored to receive the Chairman’s Award for Teaching Excellence, as voted by the Neurology Residents at UM/JMH, and is an Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology.

She balances the rigors of academics, including clinical care, teaching, research, and family, including a 9-year-old daughter Conner, and 5-year-old son, Aidan. She has been thrilled to return to Miami to help develop the neurocritical care division here and finds working with the team of nurses, a clinical pharmacist, neurology and neurosurgery residents and fellows enormously gratifying.

Faculty Spotlight: Walter G. Bradley, DM, FRCP

Dr. Bradley, Professor and Chairman Emeritus, is one of the greatest strengths of our training program. As past Director of the Neuromuscular division and former medical director of the Kessenich Family MDA ALS clinic, Dr. Bradley maintains a role teaching the Neurology residents at Professor’s Rounds. A world-renowned clinician, and master educator, he is most recognized by Neurology Residents and Neurologists around the world for his seminal textbook, Neurology in Clinical Practice.

With over 400 publications and multiple millions of dollars in research funding over his illustrious career, Dr. Bradley is a true pioneer and leader in the field.
Top 10 reasons for Ranking UM #1
(as submitted by a PGY-2 Resident…)

10. The weather
9. Outstanding benefits, salary, and educational allowance
8. Great cost of living, ocean views and no state tax!
7. Did I mention the weather …?
6. Team-oriented approach/comfortable atmosphere
5. Resident Research Track
4. Program commitment to teaching/education
3. Exposure to a diverse array of neurologic disease
2. World-renowned faculty
1. The residents!!!