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 third 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 20 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 84 faculty members (58 clinical, 46 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
- McKnight Brain Institute for Memory Disorders
- Brain Endowment Bank for Pathology
- Sleep Disorders Center
- International Center for Epilepsy
- Kessenich Family MDA ALS Center
- Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Division, American Stroke Association—Award Winning
- Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence
- Patrick Cesarano Neurovascular Laboratory

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

Greetings Neurology Applicants!

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN  
Chair, Department of Neurology

Leticia Tornes, MD  
Director, Neurology Residency Program

President, American Academy of Neurology  
Assistant Professor, Clinical Neurology
Faculty Spotlight: Michael Benatar, MBChB, DPhil

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 electrophysiologic 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.

Assoc. PD Spotlight: Mohan Kottapally, MD

Dr. Mohan Kottapally, MD comes to the University of Miami as Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology and Neurocritical Care, as well as Associate Director for the Department of Neurology Residency Program. Having earned his MD from The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Dr. Kottapally subsequently completed Neurology Residency at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital. While at UM he also served as Administrative Chief Resident for the Department of Neurology. Following residency training he further pursued his passion for Neurocritical Care by completing Fellowship training at The University of California San Francisco. Dr. Kottapally is highly interested in traumatic brain injury, sports-related concussion and medical education. He has been involved in numerous research studies as well as educational initiatives for medical students and residents, and is excited to bring these passions to the University of Miami.

Resident pictures!
I think I always knew I would end up choosing Neurology as a career! I knew from a young age that I was interested in medicine, and fell in love with Neuroscience during my first semester of undergrad at Johns Hopkins University. When applying for residency programs, I knew I wanted a large program that was strong across the board in the Neurology subspecialties because I wanted a broad exposure to all that the field had to offer. When I came to interview at the University of Miami, I knew that it had everything I was looking for in terms of exposure to a diverse patient population and a wide range of neurological diagnoses, which would prepare me well for my career no matter what I decided to pursue after residency. I also loved how effortlessly I fit in with the residents and faculty I met here, which made the transition from medical student to resident surprisingly easy. As a resident, I have had the chance to learn Neurology from incredible patients and faculty. I have also had the opportunity to further my interest in research under the mentorship of Drs. Luca and Rundek, as part of the Resident Clinician Researcher Program. Finally, as a chief resident during my 4th year, I was able to share my knowledge and serve as a mentor to the next generation of Neurology residents and students. After residency, I elected to stay at UM where I am currently doing a fellowship in Movement Disorders. Best of luck in the application and Match process—I am confident you will be as happy as I am with your choice to pursue Neurology!
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: Nirav Bhatt, MD

Dear Applicants,
Welcome to the University of Miami Neurology Residency Program - the alma mater of many great neurologists across the country and the world. After completing my medical school in India my love for neurology made me look for residency positions in the US and I can confidently say I couldn’t have come to a better place to pursue my training. I’ve been here for my internship year, residency and now Vascular Neurology fellowship and I can’t tell you enough how proud and privileged I feel to be a part of this incredible family! Here you’ll come across some of the most brilliant people across all levels - be it Faculty, leadership or the trainees and the beauty of this place is everyone gets along well with everyone. This training not only offers an extremely wide exposure to neurological diseases but also provides a really strong support for pursuing research. This year alone, our program had a very strong representation at the AAN (Boston) with more than 50 abstracts presented in various forms among the faculty and trainees. Like most of us, I strongly feel training here has played the most crucial role not only in shaping our careers but also building everlasting friendships! I hope to connect with many of you in the future, please don’t hesitate to contact me for any questions that you may have! Wish you all the best!

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

Daniel Garbin Di Luca, MD
Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil
Class of 2020

Sishir Mannava, MD
University of Oklahoma
Class of 2020

Le Treice Irving, MD
Ohio State University
Class of 2019

Janice Leon, MD
University of Miami
Class of 2019

Resident Spotlight: Ye Hu, MD

I was born in Shanghai, China and moved to Michigan at the age of 6. While I stayed in the Midwest most of my life, I did a lot of traveling during medical school. I first started out in Newcastle, England, followed by Grenada, West Indies, and then back to the US where I hopped around multiple cities. That journey led me to Miami, which I have called home for the last 3 years, and I must say it has been one of my favorite cities to live in. I love being able to grab a “cortadito” (Cuban coffee) every morning, going for a swim or a game of tennis after work, going paddle boarding on a day off, grabbing food at any of the great restaurants, or heading out on a trip to the keys with my co-residents. These are just a few of the benefits to doing a residency in Miami.

Aside from all the fun I’ve had, I actually did manage to learn a good amount of Neurology. Our clinical training here is unbeatable, from the wide variety of cases I’ve seen at all 3 teaching hospitals to the great teaching faculty we have to learn from. The program has taught me how to manage the common cases and also provided me with the foundation and tools needed to deal with the tough ones. I have also gotten involved in clinical research - submitting abstracts, presenting posters, writing up case reports, and also learning how to design and execute my own research project. I have had great guidance from the faculty and my mentors who have always been there for help when I needed it. Since being class representative and chief resident, I’ve also learned more about the administrative side of medicine allowing me to develop leadership and communication skills that will likely benefit me in the future.

Overall, our program has provided me with a well-rounded educational experience that I will take with me for years to come. I’ve enjoyed living the Miami life, and also made lifelong friends and amazing memories. I hope your visit is a great one, and that you find our program suitable for you!
Questions?

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 managers Andy and Terry, our 2017-2018 Administrative Chief Residents, our Program Director Dr. Tornes, and our Associate Program Director Kottapally are all happy to help. Good luck!

Mark Armanious, M.D.
Administrative Chief Resident
mark.armanious@jhsmiami.org

Ye Hu, MD
Administrative Chief Resident
ye.hu@jhsmiami.org

Manuel Melo Bicchi, M.D.
Administrative Chief Resident
manuel.melobicchi@jhsmiami.org

Luis Torres, MD
Administrative Chief Resident
luis.torres@jhsmiami.org

Questions?

Educational activities

- Weekly professors' rounds
- Daily noon conferences
- Weekly bedside teaching (Dr. Adams)

Graduation

Resident Research Day
University of Miami
Jackson Memorial Medical Center
Department of Neurology
Class of 2018

Mark Armanious, MD
Clinical Neurophysiology
University of Miami

Kunakorn Atchaneeyasakul, MD
Vascular Neurology
University of California, Los Angeles

Alyssa Bautista, MD
Vascular Neurology
University of California, San Diego

Renata Chalfin, MD
Epilepsy
Private Practice

Diego Condes Diez Martinez, MD
Vascular Neurology
University of Texas, Southwestern

Ye Hu, MD
Multiple Sclerosis
University of Washington

Christopher Jimenez, MD
Clinical Neurophysiology
University of Miami

Ashutosh Mahapatra, MD
Neurocritical Care
Washington University, St. Louis

Manuel Melo Bicchi, MD
Clinical Neurophysiology
University of Miami

Luis Torres, MD
Vascular Neurology
University of Miami

Fanglin Zhang, MD
Clinical Neurophysiology
University of California, Los Angeles

Happy Holidays
Resident Clinician Researcher Track

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: Janice Leon, MD

Hello, and welcome to Miami! I am one of the third year residents, a few months into our Consult Year. This year is exciting because you’re the On-Call Neurologist! We’re busy running stroke alerts, managing status epilepticus in the ICUs, as well as seeing consults for everything else under the sun—neuromyelitis optica exacerbations, neurosyphilis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, and so much more. I really like that in our program we get exposure to several different types of hospitals, clinics, and patient populations—from the uninsured, often undocumented patients we see at Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami Dade County’s safety net hospital), to veterans with excellent outpatient follow up care at the Miami VA, to the private, insured patients at the flagship University of Miami Hospital. I’m sure this training will prepare us well for any setting we choose to practice in after residency. We can also boast that at our program our attendings are world-renowned in so many sub-specialties of Neurology—including Neuro-Immunology, Epilepsy, Movement Disorders, and Neuromuscular disease just to name a few. About me—I was born and raised in Miami, I decided to stay at the University of Miami for college, medical school, and became a true ‘Cane by staying at UM/JMH for residency, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. I feel blessed to be a part of such a warm, welcoming program, with so many bright motivated people surrounding me at work every day.
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 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, is 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 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!!!