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 Parkinson's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence
- Patrick Cesarano Neurovascular Laboratory
- International Center for Epilepsy
- Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Division, American Stroke Association—Award Winning

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
Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology and Human Genetics

Leticia Tornes, MD
Director, Neurology Residency Program
Assistant Professor, Clinical Neurology
I was born in Miami, a rare local. I attended Emory University as an undergraduate where I majored in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and minored in Religion. I have been in love with the brain ever since. I already knew I wanted to practice medicine, but from that point on I was pretty sure neurology would be my career path. I then received a Master’s degree in Physiology and Biophysics at Georgetown, prior to returning to my home town for medical school. During medical school, the exposure to neurological cases and the positive visceral reaction I would experience when talking or thinking about neurology solidified my decision to apply for a neurology residency. Jackson provides an incredible diversity and unanny quantity of patients with neurological conditions, ranging from “bread and butter” to the most obscure “zebras.” The quality of experience and exposure to cases is unmatched by most institutions. After having interviewed at a number of great programs this became clear: the conferences at others institutions discussed cases that would be considered mundane and routine and routine at Jackson, but were presented as rare esoteric pathologies at most places. The clincher in my decision to stay in Miami for residency was my co-residents. Our program does a great job of selecting residents who will function as a cohesive unit. Personality and attitude are held in the same regard as GPA and USMLE scores. We have fun every day and the time passes with ease. We were brought from all over the country and the world and we function like a group of old friends. Good luck with interview season!

As an undergraduate student, I studied Neural Science at NYU. My time there proved to be formative. 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. The program at UM was an excellent fit not only for these opportunities but also because of the contagious energy felt by both faculty and residents alike. I have really enjoyed working with my co-residents, and remain in awe of the incredible faculty here at UM. These are exciting times both in the field of Neurology as well as at the Neurology program at UM/Jackson. I am confident that I made a great choice! Best of luck to you throughout the interview process and the Match.
Recent Graduate Spotlight: Shnehal Patel, MD

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:**
(all 2007-14 grads received 1st choice)
- Vascular Neurology (Columbia, Harvard, BIDMC, UCSF, U Penn, UCLA, University of Texas, UMiami)
- Clinical Electrophysiology (Johns Hopkins, NYU, UMiami)
- Neuromuscular Medicine (Washington University, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Harvard, Cleveland Clinic, OH, UMiami)
- Neuro-Critical Care (Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins University, UCSF)
- Neuro-Ophthalmology (Bascom Palmer, U. Miami)
- Movement Disorders (UMiami, Cleveland Clinic, OH)
- Pain Management (University of 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 spots/year (ACGME)
- Sleep Medicine, 3 spots/year (ACGME)
- Clinical Electrophysiology, 3 spots/year (ACGME)
- Epilepsy 1 spot/year (ACGME—pending)
- Neuro-Critical Care, 2 spots/year (UCNS)
- Neuro-Interventional, 1 spot every other year
- Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology, 1 spot/year
- Movement disorders, 1 spot/year
- Headache, 1 spot/year

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Faculty Spotlight: Teshamae Monteith, MD

Dr. Teshamae Monteith is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology and was honored to receive a three year NINDS supplement award to promote Diversity in Health-Related Research. Dr. Monteith received her medical degree from the University of Miami. She completed a residency in neurology at New York University School and fellowship training in Headache Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. She then completed a second headache fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco to further pursue her research interest in migraine. The Headache Division offers comprehensive clinical care, including an inpatient headache unit, outpatient infusion treatments, and outpatient treatment services. She is committed to the advancement of the understanding and treatment of migraine and other headache disorders through clinical care, education and research activities. Upon returning to the University of Miami, she developed an United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties accredited Headache Fellowship program. The fellowship program is unique in that it offers a rotation through the Institute of Advanced Pain Management and multiple subspecialty clinics that support headache patient care and provide opportunities for research collaboration.

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.

Resident Spotlight: Danielle Spengler, MD

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. To further solidify my interests I spent a year after undergrad doing clinical research in neurology at Boston University School of Medicine I kept an open mind in terms of specialty choice, but kept coming back to Neurology. I decided quickly during my 3rd year Neurology clerkship that this was the field I wanted to pursue. 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 UM, I knew that it had everything I was looking for in terms of exposure to a broad patient population and a wide range of neurological disorders, which would prepare me well regardless of my post-residency career plans. I especially loved how effortlessly I fit in with the residents and faculty I met here; it has made the transition from medical student to resident surprisingly easy. 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!
I grew up in Missouri and attended the Univ. of Missouri for college. Later I attended Tulane University for medical school. While there I began to hear about the UM Dept of Neurology from fellow students and from staff. Not having any real ties to South Florida, I was initially unsure whether or not to apply. I'm really glad I did. I knew from the first moment that this was a different type of program. The welcome I got from the residents and faculty was amazing. The interview environment was friendly and the residents were so close to one another that I was immediately intrigued. The combination of a large, diverse and well-known faculty with an equally interesting group of residents was too good to pass up. Being able to have such a support group while working in a large, academic and urban hospital environment has proved to be an amazing experience. I have also been able to foster an interest in research by working with Dr. Michael Benatar on neuroimaging and the clinical presentations of patients with familial ALS. This has prepared me for my fellowship in Neuro-muscular medicine at Washington University. I couldn’t have made a better choice and I hope you’ll consider our residency so you can discover what I realized.

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 first year of a two-year 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](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 2014-2015 Administrative Chief Residents, our Program Director, Dr. Tornes, and our Associate Program Director, Dr. Dib are happy to help.
Department of Neurology
Our Current PGY-4 Class with Fellowship placements

Lucien Alexandre, MD, PhD
Pain: Match in Oct 2014

Brittani Conway, MD
Mayo: Neuroimmunology

Hilary Glazer, MD
UFlorida: Behavioral Neurology

Patricia Morgan, MD
UMiami: Neuropysiology

Darian Reddick, MD, MA
Harvard: Neuromuscular

Starane Shepherd, MD
Harvard: Neuro-Critical Care

Robert “Matt” Carlile
Washington University: Neuro-muscular

Naiara Garcia-Losarcos, MD
UMiami: Neurophysiology

Christie Hupman, MD
UMiami: Neurophysiology

Monika Prasad, MD
UMiami: Epilepsy

Nirav Shah, MD
UCSF: Vascular

Welcome Picnic!
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 ~20% 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 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 Vice-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: Hilary Glazer, MD

“Welcome applicants! My name is Hilary Glazer-- I grew up in New York, went to college in Boston and then on to med school at Wash U. in St. Louis.

I finally decided on Miami for residency as the best place for me to live and to work, possibly for the rest of my life. I have a beautiful apartment facing the ocean. I drive to work everyday over the Bis-cayne Bay, and it’s not just because of the amazing views and natural beauty around me that I enjoy coming to work early every morning.

The close-knit, down-to-earth feeling here at Jackson/UM, especially in the neurology department, is palpable and unlike any other program. The service we offer patients is cutting-edge, well-rounded, and extremely rewarding. I chose this program because I wanted to gain hands-on-experience in seeing as many patients with diverse neurological disease as possible, while having fun at work. Did this program deliver! Next year I am on to a behavioral Neurology fellowship at the University of Florida, but hope to return soon.

Welcome to the program, and I hope you enjoy your time interviewing here as much as I did!”
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. He 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. He was the past president of the American Heart Association, the first time a neurologist has held this position. Currently, he is the Vice President of the AAN.

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 UM/JMH 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.

The Neuroscience ICU at JMH is one of the largest neuro-ICU in the country and has a busy, high-acuity service. Dr. O’Phelan was 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 an 8-year-old daughter Conner, and 4-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, 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 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!!!

We are on the web!
Neurology.med.miami.edu

Resident Pictures