UCLA Residency Training Program
[neurology]

Applicant Brochure
UCLA DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY
RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neurology at UCLA dates to the 1951 founding of the UCLA School of Medicine when a cadre of physician scientists with clinical training in neurology were assembled as a Division within the Department of Medicine. The Neurology Residency Training Program began in 1957 with three residents whose clinical activities were focused on the neurologic care of Neuropsychiatric Institute patients. After steady expansion of neurologic care, the Division became the Department of Neurology in 1970 and the new Department was given its own building, the Reed Neurological Research Center. This early growth has continued and the department is now one of the largest and best funded in the world. Between 2003 and 2006, 26 new faculty were recruited. It regularly is rated in the top 10 of neurology departments nationally, currently has 8 endowed chairs, and receives $30 million in research grants annually from the NIH. In the last four years the department has been ranked #1 or #2 in NIH research funding, testimony to the quality and quantity of research performed by the faculty and trainees. It also is situated within a medical school and university of similar growth and stature. The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA consistently is ranked in the top 10 nationally and recently received a $200 million endowment gift. UCLA Medical Center, which opened in 1955, has been ranked in the top 5 nationally for more than a decade and neuroscience has flourished to the extent that it is now the university’s largest academic discipline. In this context, UCLA is the source of many major advances to neurology, including CT and PET scanning, video-EEG telemetry, and intracerebral electrode monitoring. Much has been achieved in a relatively short time and this progress continues through the present in an environment of abundant talent and resources.

EDUCATION IN NEUROLOGY AT UCLA

The neurology residency at UCLA provides the knowledge and skills that define a highly qualified clinical neurologist and includes ample opportunity to develop or hone research expertise. The Neurology Department has a long-held tradition that its essential purpose is as a learning environment. Within this environment, educational experiences occur in both formal and informal situations. Teaching occurs not only during lectures or rounds but also regularly in the spontaneous interactions between residents and faculty. The faculty are proud of their accessibility to the residents, which includes both availability and a relaxed interactive environment. The educational tradition also encourages the development of teaching skills during residency and the participation of the senior residents in the education of their junior residents. By taking responsibility for aspects of their junior residents’ training, the senior residents gain a deeper understanding of neurological processes and improve their communication skills. The junior residents benefit from the complementary instruction. Many of the residents become outstanding teachers during their training, which benefits their careers long after the completion of training.

The rapid advances in clinical and basic neuroscience are reflected in the department’s academic atmosphere. A typical week includes over 20 seminars and conferences spanning many neurological and neuroscience disciplines. In addition to these opportunities, the residents have a year-long didactic curriculum of lectures, demonstrations, and reviews of recently published articles. This program is updated annually to incorporate advances and is given by faculty members who are experts in the relevant
fields. The overall aim is to provide both a detailed review of neurology’s foundation and the most current scientific knowledge.

The residency program also strives to train neurologists with humanistic qualities. These essential qualities include integrity, respect, and compassion. Attention is given to fostering commitment to the highest standards of professional conduct while working toward understanding not only a patient’s illness but also the effect that illness has on family, self-esteem, economics, and personal outlook. Expected professional conduct includes respect for the choices and rights of others while also appreciating that suffering and illness engender special needs for comfort and help. Imparting these qualities is benefited by an environment in which the faculty maintains these qualities and the educational process has humanistic understanding for the needs of the residents.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF NEUROLOGY RESIDENCY TRAINING**

**Diversity and Quality of Clinical Experience:**

UCLA’s clinical environment provides residents with a broad range of experience by virtue of the extensive population of patients served, the multiple facilities through which residents rotate, and the broad scope of faculty expertise. The UCLA Medical Center, which is in Westwood and on the main university campus, is a tertiary referral center for a large geographical area in Southern California and regularly receives patients from around the United States and foreign countries. Neurology patients at the Westwood facility reflect this diversity and comprise local individuals who are admitted through the emergency department, critically ill patients who are transferred from surrounding hospitals, and patients with complicated or rare conditions who are transferred, often from great distances. The UCLA Medical Center has one of the few JCAHO certified Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Centers.

In July 2008, a new, replacement hospital opened on the Westwood campus adjacent to the current hospital, which will be converted into additional research space. The new hospital is an architectural landmark and among the most technologically advanced hospitals in the world. It was designed by the architect I.M. Pei, who is best known for designing the glass pyramid addition to Louvre Museum in Paris. The clinical neuroscience ward includes dedicated beds and nursing for neurology and neurosurgery patients. The 26 bed Neuro Intensive Care Unit is unique in that it has its own onsite CT, MRI, and PET scanners in the unit.

Residents rotate through other community and county health care systems including the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center, Olive View Medical Center, and the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Outpatient Medical Center. These facilities complement each other and the Westwood experience by providing a broader range of clinical experiences from patients with newly diagnosed disorders to the management of patients with chronic disease. Each facility is modern and staffed by full-time UCLA Neurology faculty. Beyond the regular rotations, residents have the
opportunity to spend elective time at the UCLA Santa Monica Hospital, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Harbor UCLA Medical Center, the private offices of clinically affiliated faculty, and centers outside of Los Angeles. There is a longstanding relationship with the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at Queen Square in London, UK and each year some residents spend elective time at this institution.

Subspecialty Programs Spanning Neurology

The UCLA Department of Neurology is organized into subspecialty programs that are vertically integrated to incorporate basic research, clinical research, and patient care within one area of neurology. Each program includes multiple faculty members and fellows. The programs are:

- Brain Mapping
- Clinical Neurophysiology
- Epilepsy
- General Outpatient Neurology
- Headache
- Health Services/Outcomes Research
- Critical Care Neurology
- Movement Disorders
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Neurobehavior and Dementia
- Neurogenetics
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Neuro-Oncology
- Neuro-Otology and Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Rehabilitation
- Sleep Disorders
- Stroke and Vascular Neurology

Quality of Faculty:

The UCLA Department of Neurology is one of the largest in the world and includes many world-renowned individuals in both clinical neurology and basic neuroscience. It also is a faculty that is balanced in seniority and gender. Between 2003 and 2009, over 30 new (mostly junior) faculty have joined the department and the overall faculty of which is now approximately 1/3 female. The academic stature of the faculty is exemplified by its research productivity. Each year, over 400 journal articles are published by departmental faculty and appear in many of the most prestigious journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Neurology, Annals of Neurology, Science, Nature, Neuron, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Faculty members also have authored standard reference texts for both general and subspecialty neurology, covering the areas of introduction to neurology, neurologic differential diagnosis, brain mapping, dementia, electroencephalography, epilepsy, genetics, intra-operative neurologic monitoring, neuropathology, neurorehabilitation, vestibular neurology, and history of neurology. The research productivity also is demonstrated by the success of the faculty in obtaining grant funding from the NIH. Among departments of neurology nationally, the UCLA Department of Neurology received the most funding from the NIH in 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Recent honors conferred upon individual faculty members include induction into the US Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, induction into the UK Royal College of Physicians, induction into the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences, the Stroke Council Award of the American Heart Association, and the US Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.
Quality of Residents:

UCLA consistently recruits and matches outstanding applicants from the highest ranked medical schools across the United States. Residents are chosen based upon their academic qualifications, their commitment to providing the highest standards of patient care, and their ability to participate in an interactive educational environment. The residents play an integral role in the growth and development of the department by actively participating in their own education, providing formal feedback, and serving on educational committees. An annual, multi-day, off site retreat provides the opportunity for the faculty, staff, and residents to meet and discuss the residency in an open environment and routinely leads to improvements to the overall program. The department relies upon the high quality of the residents for both the clinical care of complex patients and the further development of the residency training program.

Flexibility of Residency Training Experience:

The Residency Training Program is structured to provide flexibility in the educational experience for each resident to tailor the overall educational program depending upon the individual’s interests and career goals. This flexibility is primarily through elective time in the second and third years, which are filled by the resident’s choice from many clinical or research experiences. The elective time allows residents to supplement their clinical education with more extensive training in specific areas of neurology or to participate in research. Residents may use this time to explore an area of research that is new to them or continue work that began prior to residency.

Basic and clinical neuroscience research by residents at UCLA is encouraged and supported, although not required. The elective time allows residents to finish residency with both broader and deeper knowledge. This benefit is demonstrated by the success that graduating residents have had in achieving research funding soon after completing residency training.

Collegial Environment:

The Department of Neurology stresses a collegial working environment with many channels for feedback and communication among residents, faculty and staff. There are Residency Training Committee Meetings every other month and Resident Update Meetings with the residency directors monthly. Resident and Faculty Retreats occur annually and organized social functions occur at various times of the year. Faculty members are accessible to residents and maintain an “open door policy” that encourages interaction with residents.

Structure of Program by Year

The educational program evolves to keep current with training needs and to optimize the residents’ experience. With continual evolution, abrupt and major changes to the program have been avoided. The basic structure of the program has been in place for more than a decade, with recent changes in the continuity clinic and neuron-intensive care rotations.

Preliminary Medicine/Neurology Year (PGY-1)

Applications

Beginning in the academic year 2020 – 2021, there are 6 one-year positions in the Preliminary Medicine/Neurology track. These preliminary positions are reserved only for applicants who also match into the UCLA Neurology program. There are NO required interviews for a position in the Preliminary Medicine/Neurology program. Preliminary positions are awarded to candidates who match with UCLA
Neurology who ALSO rank the Preliminary Medicine/Neurology program. To rank our program, first rank UCLA for Neurology (PGY-2-4 / NRMP Code 1800521012), then rank UCLA for Preliminary Medicine/Neurology (PGY-1 / NRMP Code 1956140P1).

Curriculum
The preliminary year will be a full year of internal medicine training with the UCLA Internal Medicine residency program. Preliminary Medicine/Neurology residents will rotate at the Greater Los Angeles VA between the West Los Angeles and Sepulveda campuses (for more information about the clinical sites, click here). The core curriculum for Preliminary Medicine/Neurology residents will consist of a core internal medicine preliminary year with additional opportunities for inpatient and outpatient neurology experiences. In general, residents will attend daily morning report and noon conference didactics with the Medicine Categorical residents.

In general, the preliminary year schedule includes the following rotations:

- Inpatient general medicine (16 weeks)
- Ambulatory medicine subspecialty and neurology clinics (10 weeks, with 4+1 block scheduling)
- MICU (4 weeks)
- Cardiology wards (4 weeks)
- Inpatient neurology (4 weeks)
- General medicine night float (2 weeks)
- Emergency medicine (2 weeks)
- Medicine subspecialty electives (6 weeks - rotations in rheumatology, hematology/oncology, and palliative care, among others)
- Vacation (4 weeks)

General Program Information

- Specialty: Preliminary Medicine Year
- Program Name: UCLA
- NRMP #: 1956140P1

Contacts
For additional information regarding applications and interviews, please contact:
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Program Leadership

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Kelley Chuang, M.D.
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First Year (PGY II)
The first year of the adult training program also includes the first-year fellows in pediatric neurology. The rotations and expectations during this year are the same for both adult and pediatric trainees.

During the first two months of the PGY II year, the incoming residents receive a series of lectures focused on the clinical knowledge needed for coverage and call responsibilities. The lecture topics include a detailed review of the neurologic examination, the diagnosis and management of neurologic emergencies, an overview of the outpatient management of common neurologic disorders, and essential elements of neuroradiology.

The PGY2 year is divided into 4 weeks long clinical rotations during the PGY II year with Westwood, the West LA VA, Olive View, and Sepulveda VA as the main rotating sites. Between each rotation there are outpatient clinic sessions of 2 weeks duration (a 4 + 2 grid). The outpatient sessions include continuity clinics along with subspecialty clinics. The Westwood rotations are inpatient services with a night float system and are divided into general neurology and vascular neurology rotations. The West LA VA has an inpatient neurology service. Olive View rotations include inpatient services with a county hospital experience. The Sepulveda VA rotation is a service limited to outpatient care. The call for the VA and Olive View rotations is off-campus with the PGY II as the first contact for neurologic consultations or care for patients already known to the neurology inpatient service. Senior residents and faculty provide supervision for the PGY-II residents, regardless of whether the call is in-house or off-campus. An additional Subspecialty rotation based at both the Westwood and West LA VA campuses provides junior residents a brief introduction to movement disorders, neurogenetic diseases, multiple sclerosis, and neurobehavioral syndromes including dementia.

**Second Year (PGY III)**

The second year includes month long rotations with more elective time chosen by the resident. The other blocks include 2 pediatric neurology rotations and 1 rotation for each of the following: West LA VA, Epilepsy Service, and Vascular Neurology, and Neuro-ICU. The pediatric neurology rotation includes both inpatient and outpatient care with the adult resident participating fully in all aspects of the service. The West LA VA and Vascular Neurology rotations each differ from the prior year by including senior resident responsibilities, such as triage, teaching, and supervision. The neuro-intensive care rotation is located to the RRUMC hospital and its state of the art neuro ICU. The epilepsy rotation includes both inpatient and outpatient aspects of the epilepsy service with inpatient care centered on the video-EEG monitoring unit. Call during the PGY III year is both in-house and off-campus.

**Third Year (PGY IV)**

The third year includes additional elective time as well as senior resident responsibilities on the Westwood General Inpatient Service, West LA VA inpatient, and Olive View Medical Center services.

**Electives**

A collection of standard electives exists to assist residents in scheduling their elective time, but residents also may create their own elective. All electives are supervised by faculty. The following list summarizes commonly chosen electives.

- Basic neuroscience research
- Clinical neuroscience research
- Electroencephalography
- Electromyography and peripheral neurology
• General neurology in private practice setting
• Headache and pain
• Medical Education
• Mobile Stroke Unit
• Movement disorders
• Neurodegenerative disease clinic
• Neuroinfectious diseases
• Neurointensive care
• Neuro-Imunology
• Neurogenetics
• Neuro-oncology
• Neuro-ophthalmology
• Neuro-otology
• Neuroradiology
• Neurorehabilitation
• Neuropalliative Care
• Neuropathology
• Sleep medicine and polysomnography
• Street Neurology: Neurology in Los Angeles homeless population
• Subspecialty outpatient clinics

Research in Training

Residents have the opportunity to start their clinician-scientist careers during residency during the PGY-4 year through our NIH R25 grant. This award funds 6 months of research in the final year of residency along with structured mentorship and a nationwide network of peer grantees. UCLA has the only neurology specific (not shared with psychiatry or neurosurgery) award in the country. An additional opportunity is the UCLA sponsored Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program that may be entered in the PGY-3 or 4 year. It provides the trainee with an opportunity to start work for an advanced research degree (MS or PhD). Those with advanced degrees may enter the program as post-doctoral fellows.

Global Health Track

We have relationships with health institutions in Mexico City, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia, and London, where neurology residents may do rotations in PGY3 and/or PGY4 year. A formal global health track, which includes academic advising and development of a global health research project, is in development for this upcoming year.

Education Track

Residents interested in medical education, have an opportunity to participate in UCLA’s Medical Education fellowship Certificate Program in Innovations in Curriculum Design and Evaluation during their PGY3/PGY4 years, during which they will have instruction on theories of teaching and learning in medicine and are trained in advanced medical education approaches. Additionally participants will teach medical students neuroanatomy and clinical neurology, and complete an education thesis project.
**Advocacy Track**

Residents interested in patient/issue advocacy may participate in this new offering that gives exposure to the varying levels of activism. We draw on the resources within our specialty within the Los Angeles/UCLA community and nationally to give exposure to the mechanisms available to enact change. This occurs through participation in the annual AAN Neurology-on-the-Hill Day, spending time with Brain Pac staff (postponed due to the pandemic) and working with LA community-based groups on issue specific programing.

**AFFILIATED HOSPITALS**

**West Los Angeles VA Medical Center**

Located within 1 mile of the UCLA Medical Center, the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center is the largest and most complex healthcare facility within the Department of Veterans Affairs. It provides inpatient and outpatient care for veterans in the Los Angeles area and surrounding region of California.

**Olive View Los Angeles County Medical Center**

The Olive View-UCLA Medical Center is a modern 350-bed acute care hospital funded by the County of Los Angeles and located in the San Fernando Valley. It provides care to a large underserved multi-cultural patient population. All medical and surgical services are staffed by regular UCLA faculty and the care is at a very high-level. There are EEG and EMG labs and 3 adult intensive care units. Neurologic care is provided as consultation to whichever service has admitted the patient and about 700 consults are provided each year. General and subspecialty neurology clinics take place within the general medicine outpatient suites and see about 2300 new and return patients each year.

**Sepulveda VA Medical Center**

The Sepulveda VA is located in the San Fernando Valley between the Olive View Medical Center and UCLA. It offers a general neurology and epilepsy clinic in a recently constructed outpatient center. The nursing home and inpatient psychiatry unit that are situated on the same grounds generate consultations for the neurology service.

**TEACHING CONFERENCES**

**Monday**
- 8:00-10:00  WLA VA Inpatient Psychiatry Case Conference
- 11:00-12:00 Pediatric Neurology Conference
- 11:00-12:00 Human Genetics Seminar
- 12:00-1:00  Neuromuscular Conference
- 1:00-2:00  Neuro-otology Rounds
- 4:00-5:00  Neurobehavior Conference

**Tuesday**
- 9:00-10:00  Brain Cutting
- 12:00-2:00  Neurophysiology Conference
• 12:00-1:00  Geriatric Psychiatry Conference
• 12:00-1:00  Olive View Grand Rounds

Wednesday
• 9:00-10:00  Neurology Grand Rounds
• 10:00-12:00  Resident Journal Club and Core Curriculum
• 12:00-1:00  Noon Outpatient Conference
• 2:00 – 4:00  Epilepsy Surgery Clinical Conference
• 4:00 – 5:00  Brain Mapping Seminar

Thursday
• 8:00-9:00  WLA VA Cognitive Neuroscience Conference
• 12:00-1:00  Pediatric Neurology Seminar
• 12:00-1:00  EEG Conference
• 1:30-2:45  WLA VA Behavioral Neuroscience Case Presentation

Friday
• 11:30-12:00  Pediatric Neuroradiology Case Conference
• 12:00-1:00  Epilepsy Journal Club
• 12:00-1:00  WLA VA Grand Rounds

*Additional conferences are also conducted at the affiliate sites.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Where is UCLA?

UCLA’s campus, which includes the School of Medicine and Medical Center, is on the Westside of Los Angeles and boarders Bel Air to the north, Holmby Hills and Beverly Hills to the east, Brentwood to the west, and Westwood to the south. The campus is adjacent to the Westwood Village commercial area, which contains restaurants, movie theaters, and a wide range of retail stores. The Pacific Ocean and Santa Monica are 5 miles to the west. National and state wilderness areas are within 2 miles to the north and northwest. Joshua Tree National Park and the San Gabriel Mountains ski resorts are 100 miles to the east. San Diego is 130 miles to the south and San Francisco is 380 miles to the north.

Where do most residents live?

Housing opportunities are plentiful, and costs are comparable to other large metropolitan areas. Options include high-rise apartments, small apartment buildings, and house rentals. Residents commonly live in Westwood, Santa Monica, West Los Angeles, Venice or Culver City. Commutes to UCLA can be as short as a several minute walk. Most residents live within a 20 minute drive. Parking in Los Angeles is not difficult in most neighborhoods, and residents may obtain permitted parking on campus within a few minutes walk of the hospital.

What is there to do other than neurology in Los Angeles?

Los Angeles offers one the most culturally diverse cities in the world with over 140 countries and 96 languages represented within its immigrant population. However, it also is a city that draws people
from around the United States. Like only a handful of other US cities, Los Angeles has a large population of people who chose it as their home because it offers metropolitan opportunities not available many other places. Los Angeles is a cultural hub that is famous as a world center for film, television, music, art, and architecture. Museums and concert halls are numerous, as are smaller venues that provide a means to see the work of not yet famous artists and performers. Of the many museums in Los Angeles County, over 50 are art museums. California cuisine as an entity developed out of LA’s diversity, and there are restaurants with every imaginable ethnic culinary choice. Los Angeles also is the most literate city in the US with more book purchases each year than anywhere else.

Beyond cultural offerings, Los Angeles has an almost perfect climate with summer high temperatures that typically are in the mid 80°s F and winter high temperatures typically in the high 60°s F. An average year has about 35 days of rain, almost all of which are between December and March. The proximity of mountains that have snow in the winter allows the unique opportunity to surf in the morning and downhill ski in the afternoon. Other nearby natural attractions include several mountain and desert national wilderness areas and protected coastlines.

**Requirements for Application**

The UCLA Department of Neurology reviews all applications through ERAS and matches applicants through the NRMP. We have a dedicated Resident Selection committee comprised of key faculty, the departmental chair, the programs directors, and chief residents.

Our planned interview dates in 2020-2021 are:

- Monday, October 26, 2020
- Monday, November 2, 2020
- Monday, November 9, 2020
- Monday, November 16, 2020
- Monday, December 7, 2020

For additional information, please contact:

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