

Program Aims

By the completion of the training program each resident will have developed:

1. Competence in the comprehensive diagnosis and management of all common and most uncommon forms of neurologic disease
2. A comprehensive knowledge base in both basic and clinical neuroscience, and appropriate areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, and other medical fields
3. A comprehensive knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.
4. Skill in professional, accurate and complete procurement of a hypothesis driven medical history and neurological examination.
5. An understanding of the principles, indications, contraindications, risk, cost, and expected outcome of the various treatments and diagnostics.
6. Competence in communicating diagnosis and treatment plans in a clear and compassionate manner to patients with varied backgrounds, educational experience, and coping mechanisms; in particular, skill in the compassionate communication of a devastating prognoses to patients and family members.
7. The ability to communicate professionally, accurately, and clearly with other healthcare professionals, with a proper acknowledgement of the principles of HIPAA regulations.
8. The ability to incorporate self-assessment and self-improvement practices in their plan as a life-long learner.
9. The ability to apply practice- and systems improvement, to allow an emphasis on patient safety and quality of care.
10. Competence in the practice of evidence-based applied to clinical decision making.
11. Knowledge of clinical trial design and statistical testing, as well as the ability to utilize this knowledge for critical interpretation of medical literature to become good consumers of new medical knowledge.
12. Participation in the process of biomedical research through involvement in clinical or translational research projects
13. Competence in the education of other health care providers
14. Skill in working in and leading patient-care teams with a variety of providers and care givers to ensure an excellent level of patient safety and satisfaction.

Research Curriculum

Beginning in their PGY2 year, will participate in a three-year integrative scholarly activity program to become familiar with the methods, regulations and ethics involved in the conduct of responsible research. Toward that end, this research program will 1) provide the resident with training and experience in planning and conducting research, and 2) educate residents on how to be better consumers of clinical research through didactic and experiential learning. This project includes understanding the concepts of evidence-based medicine and putting those practices to use, demonstrating knowledge of the ethical considerations involved in clinical research, hypothesis generation and data analysis, mastering skills for scientific writing and making oral presentations.

For research support, the scholarly activity support team can assist. The scholarly activity support team also offers biostatistics consultation and poster preparation.

The majority of the resident research projects results in presentation at national/international meetings and/or publication in peer-reviewed journals. Resident scholarly activity presentations and publications are also recognized with stipends awarded by our educational leadership. Residents are also expected to submit their work for presentation at an institutional Research Day.

Quality & Improvement Curriculum

Patient safety and improved quality of care are a part of our daily work. Residents must demonstrate the ability to analyze the care they provide, understand their roles within health care teams and play an active role in system improvement processes. Graduating residents will apply these skills to critique their future, unsupervised practice and effect quality improvement measures. Residency clinical experiences are structured to facilitate learning in a manner that allows the residents to function as part of an effective health care team, that works together longitudinally with shared goals of patient safety and quality improvement. In addition to participation in institutional Quality Improvement and Root Cause Analysis curricula, all residents participate in error disclosure and reporting, as well as analysis of patient safety events (during our Morbidity and Mortality Conference). All residents are also expected to participate in a quality improvement project or activity during their PGY2-4 years; a deliverable such as Clinical Pathway, a publication in a peer-reviewed journal or other publication/presentation/abstract is an expected outcome of their work. Residents are also strongly encouraged to participate in community quality improvement initiatives, as these opportunities arise.