A concerted effort by UH Neurological Institute team members across the system have given more patients access to one of the nation’s premier programs for neurology and neurosurgery. As you know, in 2014 U.S. News & World Report ranked the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery at UH Case Medical Center as one of the best programs in the country, and we want to ensure that referring physicians are confident that their patients will receive the high level of care they need and deserve in a timely manner.

Over the last several months, the UH Neurological Institute has been working with Clinical Integration and Central Scheduling to improve first-available appointment access by 75 percent, shaving weeks off wait times. We have added 100 more new patient appointment slots per week, and are committed to seeing physician-referred new patients within two weeks. In addition, we offer same-day access for physician-referred patients requiring urgent attention.

Improving our access gives patients more prompt access to not only UH Case Medical Center, but 20 community locations throughout Northeast Ohio. The UH Neurological Institute at UH Case Medical Center is the industry benchmark for interdepartmental collaboration and leading innovation, including:

- Northeast Ohio’s most experienced stroke specialists through our Comprehensive Stroke Center, with 24/7 coverage for emergency transfers through our physician-led Brain Attack program. The Joint Commission also designated multiple UH medical centers as Certified Primary Stroke Centers.
- First in the world to test the diaphragm pacing stimulation system on patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, among only six in the world experienced in performing minimally invasive brain tumor surgery with NeuroBlate.

(Continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1)

- First in North America to perform deep brain stimulation of the thalamus to treat symptoms of Tourette’s syndrome, and first in the United States to offer multiple hippocampal transections to treat epilepsy at our Level IV Epilepsy Center.
- First in Ohio to offer both Gamma Knife and CyberKnife in our Stereotactic Radiosurgery Suite.
- Pioneering efforts to improve outcomes of complex neurosurgical procedures by working with Cleveland-based Surgical Theater LLC in developing the Surgical Rehearsal Platform, a brain surgery simulator.

We are committed to ensuring timely access for all providers and patients in need of both neurology and neurosurgery.

**Nicholas Bambakidis, MD Appointed to Editorial Board**

Nicholas C. Bambakidis, MD, was recently elected to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Neurosurgery* (JNS). Each board member serves quite a long period of time as an expert reviewer of scholarly manuscript submissions, with the final year as Chairman of the journal.

The *Journal of Neurosurgery* Publishing Group (JNSPG) is the scholarly journals publication arm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the practice of neurosurgery worldwide. Since 1944, the *Journal of Neurosurgery* has been recognized worldwide for its authoritative articles on clinical and laboratory research, and innovative surgical techniques and instruments, as well as its rigorous focus on the highest-quality presentation of scientific and medical advances. The *Journal of Neurosurgery* is the most highly cited journal in neurosurgery, according to Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports®.

An appointment to the JNS’s Editorial Board is a highly regarded one. Congratulations to Dr. Bambakidis on this outstanding achievement!

**Host Committee Member**

Robert Daroff, MD was a member of the Host Committee of the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, 250th Anniversary Gala, on May 15.
RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS TRANSITIONS

**Department of Neurological Surgery**
Sunil Manjila, MD, is departing and has not announced his next assignment.

Yifei Duan, MD, matched into the UH Neurological Surgery residency program. Yifei is currently a medical student at the CWRU SOM and will begin the program on July 1, 2015.

**Department Epilepsy**
Rajkumar Agarwal, MD is departing to join Children’s Hospital of Michigan, Wayne State University for an academic pediatric neurology and epilepsy practice.

Nicole Conroy, MD is departing to join a hospital based neurology practice.

Mohammed Ilyas, MD is a Pediatrician from Wayne State University and is joining as an Epilepsy Fellow.

Adham Jammoul, MD is departing to join Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH in a hospital-based inpatient neurology practice.

Preerna Malla, MD is returning to UH as Epilepsy Fellow.

Ahmad Marashly, MD is departing to join Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin as a faculty member.

Leyda Sanchez-Ortiz, MD, is a Pediatrician from University of Puerto Rico and is joining as an Epilepsy Fellow.

Ajaz Sheikh, MD is departing to join Duke University Medical Center in a Sleep Fellowship.

**Department of Neurology**
Oladi Bentho, MD is departing to join the Neurocritical Care at John’s Hopkins University Baltimore.

Bryan Bonder, MD is remaining and will start his Internal Medicine Residency at UHCMC.

Diep (Daisy) Bui, MD is remaining and will start her Epilepsy Fellowship at UHCMC.

*(Continued on page 4)*
RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS
TRANSITIONS — continued from page 3

Jonah Grossman, M.D. is departing to join the Neurocritical Care University of Cincinnati.

Kunal Kumar, M.D. combined a 3 year Neurocritical care (NCC) and Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology (ESN) Fellowship" at Wilson Memorial Hospital/Upstate Medical University, Johnson City, NY.

Saba Saeed, M.D. is remaining and will start her Neuromuscular Fellow at UHCMC.

Komal Sawlani, M.D. is departing to join the Neuromuscular Fellowship Partnership BWH&MGH in Boston MA.

Andrew Smith, M.D. is departing to join the Neuro-Immunology Fellowship at CCF Melen Center.

Sikawat Thanaviratananich, M.D. is departing to join the Clinical Neurophysiology Baylor College of Medicine Houston.

Manaf Zawahreh, M.D. is departing to join the Sleep Medicine/EEG Duke University.

Khaled Asi, M.D. is remaining and will start his Neurocritical care Fellowship at UHCMC.

Vikram Jadhav, M.D. is remaining and will start his Neurocritical Care Fellowship at UHCMC.

Benjamin Miller, M.D. is remaining and will start his Vascular Neurology Fellowship at UHCMC.

Jaspreet, Kaur, D.O. is remaining and will start his Vascular Neurology Fellowship at UHCMC

Betsy Garratt, D.O. is remaining and will join the UH Practice UHMP Parma/Medina.

Zaid Al-Qudah, M.D. is departing and will join the United Health Care Group Specialist, Bedford, West Virginia.

Timothy Wuerz, DO, is departing and will join the VA Hospital Outpatient Geriatric Psychiatry Clinic San Francisco.

Southwest General Recognized for Exemplary Care of Stroke and Heart Failure Patients
Southwest General has again earned the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s prestigious Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. Additionally, the hospital was recognized on the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll-Elite. This award recognizes the Hospital’s sustained commitment and success in ensuring that stroke patients receive the most effective treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

“With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and this award demonstrates our sustained commitment to ensuring patients receive care according to clinical guidelines based on national research, said Robyn Szeles, Director, Southwest General’s Heart & Vascular Institute, which includes the Primary Stroke Center. “Southwest General is dedicated to continually improving the quality of stroke care, and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Stroke helps our multidisciplinary team of clinical experts achieve that goal.”

“We are pleased to recognize Southwest General for its commitment to stroke care, said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee and executive director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. “Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce complications such as disability and mortality, length of stay and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparities in care.”
CONCUSSION TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS

The Traumatic Brain Injury Center in partnership with Sports Medicine is hosting a Concussion Training Program for 28 primary and urgent care physicians as well as several regional athletic trainers on May 21st.

Physicians will receive education on identifying and managing concussion in the acute and post-acute time periods. Dr. Alan Hoffer, Center Director, and Dr. Christopher Bailey, Concussion Program Director, seek to provide the community with better access to concussion care through training Primary Care Concussion Specialists and athletic trainers who practice throughout the region. Program faculty and concussion leadership from Sports Medicine include Dr. Susannah Briskin and Dr. Christopher Tangen.

This is the first in what will be annual educational meetings for UH concussion management providers as a part of the system-wide UH Concussion Management Program which represents a multidisciplinary collaborative effort comprising the UH Neurological Institute, UH Primary Care Institute, UH Rehabilitation Services and UH Sports Medicine, as well as other adult and pediatric specialty providers.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Brian Appleby, MD, gave a presentation on "Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and other prion diseases", at the University of Miami Department of Neurology, Grand Rounds, May 15, 2015.

Two presentations from the Brain Tumor Center were presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR):


Sloan Andrew E: MRI Fingerprinting for Diagnosis of Malignant Glioma and Assessment of Treatment Response. AANS Tumor Satellite Symposium, Washington, DC, May 2015 (Oral)


Sloan Andrew E: The Role of the Neurosurgeon in Brain Tumor Clinical Trials. AANS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, May 2015 (Oral).

Sloan Andrew E: Cancer Related Cord Compression. UHMG and Seidman Cancer Center Clinicians on May 13, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

Krystal Tomei, MD was elected as the Chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Young Neurosurgeons Committee at this past AANS meeting, it is a two year term, concluding in 2017.

GRANTS AWARDED

Eli E. Bar, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Case Western Reserve University’s School of Medicine, has been awarded an R01 grant, with funding beginning June 1, 2015. The project, "Targeting Brain Tumor Stem Cells in the Hypoxic Microenvironment," examines the hypoxic regions that are frequent in glioblastoma, as increased levels of tumor hypoxia have been associated with worse clinical outcomes. Bar and colleagues will focus on functionally important links between hypoxia, the monocarboxylate transporter-4, and Notch, and their role in promoting the growth and survival of stemlike glioma cells in malignant brain tumors for which there is no cure. Congratulations, Dr. Bar!
SAVE THE DATE - *Mark your calendars!*

**7th ANNUAL PARKINSON DISEASE BOOT CAMP**
Saturday, September 19, 2015
John S. Knight Center
77 East Mill Street, Akron, OH
For more information contact Barbara Bryson at Barbara.bryson@uhhospitals.org

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S CLEVELAND AREA CHAPTER**


For more information contact Katie Mang at kmang@alz.org.

**4TH ANNUAL DAN AND LINDA ROCKER SILVERBERG HEAL THE HEALER SYMPOSIUM**
Friday, October 16, 2015 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
700 Beta Banquet & Conference Center
700 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village, OH 44143
To register for the symposium, call 216 983-1239 – More information to come!

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

**Dr. Guadalupe Fernandez-Baca Vaca,** Thank you so much for taking the time to interpret the discharge instructions for a Spanish speaking family. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated, especially since you were on consult service and not the primary team for the patient.

Thank you for working with the patient's nurse, Allison. You really made a difference for the patient and family.  
*Julie Mendolera Advanced Clinical Nurse, Lakeside 20*

**Dr. Andrew Sloan,** We would like to thank you for the wonderful care that our loved one received at Case Medical Center. You placed a VP shunt on April 14, 2015. Your expertise and the time you spent with her discussing options are greatly appreciated.

She had ten radiation treatments upon her return to UW Hospital in Madison. She is now at a rehab center and is slowly regaining strength and improved ambulation. She will see her oncologist next week and plans to discuss with her some options you discussed with her. Thank you again for making a difficult time easier for us.  
*From a family member*
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES GRAND ROUNDS SCHEDULE

Epilepsy Grand Rounds – Frohring Auditorium – Room 105 of the Biomedical Research Building at CWRU 8 am

June 1
Presenter: Shahram Amina, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology
Topic: Rational Polytherapy

PLEASE NOTE THIS SESSION IS IN WOLSTEIN BUILDING, ROOM 1413/1420

June 8
NO GRAND ROUNDS

June 15
Presenter: Asim Shahid, MD, Department of Pediatric Epilepsy, UHCMC
Topic: TBA

June 22
NO GRAND ROUNDS

June 29
Presenter: Cathleen Bolek, Esq. Bolek Besser Blesius, LLC
Topic: FMLA/ADA: What physicians should know to protect their patient’s rights.

Neurology Grand Rounds Kulas Auditorium 8 am – CANCELLED FOR THE SUMMER

Neuromuscular Grand Rounds – Lerner Tower 2nd Fl., Room 2060 9:30 am
TBA

Pediatric Epilepsy Grand Rounds – RBC 8th Floor Conference Room 11:00 am
Every 4th Monday of the month
Topic: Case Management

Neurosurgical Clinical Conference – Hanna House 5th Floor, Room 537 7:15 am
TBA

If you have any questions regarding department Grand Rounds schedule, please contact:
Lois Hengenius, Neurosurgery Clinical Conference, 216 844-3472
Angela Javorsky, Epilepsy Grand Rounds, 216 844-1764
Roberta Phelps, Neuromuscular Grand Rounds, 216 844-4854
Kim Puskus, Neurology Grand Rounds, 844-3194
Angel Warner, Pediatric Epilepsy Course 216-286-6562
Carlee Seelbach, Connor Integrative Medicine Network 216-593-5533
PUBLICATIONS

(Please see new submission guidelines on page 11)


PUBLICATIONS (continued from page 8)


BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH EVENT

The May Brain Tumor Awareness Month was a complete success”, stated one of our patients who had the opportunity to ask additional questions about treatment, clinical trials and other modalities. Patients and love ones shared their stories and progress and wanted to know how they can be part of next year event.

The purpose of Brain Tumor Awareness Month is to provide our patients and their family an opportunity to learn more about the disease and explore treatment options in preparation of what lies ahead and to meet our team of Nurses and Doctors who are here to guide patients throughout the Brain Tumor diagnosis. Brain Tumor Awareness Month encourage all family members and patient to explore this area to learn more about the disease and the various treatment options.

We would like to send special thanks to all our friends, staff, patients and Girls Scout Troop #70616, who helped to make this event possible. We are forever grateful.

Submitted by Sandra Pabellon, RN, Event Coordinator
AMERICAN HEART AND STROKE ASSOCIATION POWER OF LAUGHTER HEALTH WORKSHOP & COMEDY LUNCHEON

Members of the NI attending luncheon and workshop on Saturday, May 2nd.

(L-R back) Linda Parker, RN, Adult Epilepsy Monitoring Unit; Tonya Dorsey, Doctor’s Secretary, CMC; Sandra Pabellon, RN, CMC; Zilphia Washington, UH Medical Assistant. (Seated L-R) Natalie Smith, RN, Assistant Nurse Manager, Lerner Tower 4 CMC; Noreen Chase, RN Stroke Coordinator, UH Parma; Kelly Montgomery, RN, Stroke Coordinator, CMC; Bridgett MacMichael, RN, Stroke Coordinator, UH Geauga and (not pictured), Barbara Bryson, NI Community Outreach Coordinator.