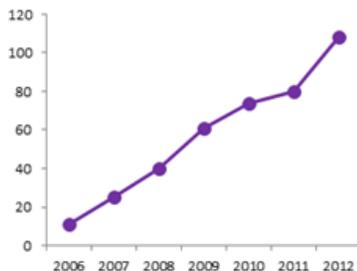


## UCNS Celebrates 10 Years of Progress

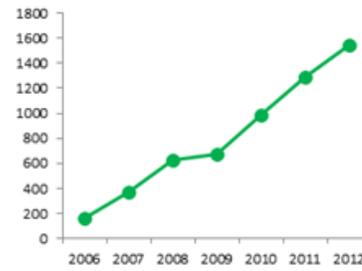
By John Kohring, UCNS Executive Director

When the legal papers establishing the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties were filed in 2003, nobody was sure that the organization would survive. Some neurology leaders doubted that subspecialization was here to stay. And everyone agreed that a mission to nurture the development of emerging subspecialties was associated with considerable financial risk. However, some courageous leaders, including Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCH, FAAN (see profile on page 2), believed that UCNS could be an important tool to help neurologists assume leadership roles in the treatment of patients.

In the years since, UCNS has grown steadily. We have recognized nine neurologic subspecialties since 2004. We have accredited 108 fellowships in 28 states and a Canadian province. And we have certified 1,546 physicians who practice in 47 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces.



Accredited Programs (cumulative)



Diplomates (cumulative)

During our start-up years, UCNS was guided by the steady hands of great leaders, including Board Chairs Dr. Sergay and Leslie A. Morrison, MD, Accreditation Council Chairs Robert P. Lisak, MD, FAAN and David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN, and Certification Council Chair José Biller, MD, FAAN, FACP, FAHA. In addition, countless members of our board, councils, and committees have served with distinction. We owe an enduring debt of gratitude to these committed volunteers who have worked long hours to help build UCNS's credibility.



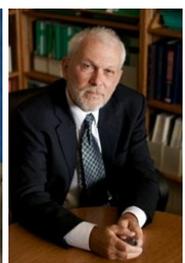
Dr. Sergay



Dr. Morrison



Dr. Lisak



Dr. Anderson



Dr. Biller

Over the years, UCNS has benefitted from generous financial support of its parent organizations, particularly the American Academy of Neurology (the Academy). Recently, UCNS has achieved greater financial stability. While there are substantial challenges ahead, we are looking forward to the next 10 years with optimism.

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For more information about the UCNS, visit the UCNS website at [www.ucns.org](http://www.ucns.org).

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties is to provide for accreditation and certification with the goal of enhancing the quality of training for physicians in neurologic subspecialties and the quality of patient care.*

### Important Dates

**March 18, 2013**

UCNS Board of Directors Meeting

**June 1, 2013**

Accreditation application deadline for fall 2013 review

**July 15, 2013**

Neurocritical Care certification examination application deadline

## Letter from the Chair



Paul M. Vespa, MD,  
FCCM, FAAN

As we mark our tenth anniversary, we should take a moment to celebrate the many accomplishments that are described in this newsletter. These achievements would have been impossible without the strong commitment of our volunteer board, council, and committee members. I want to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude for everything they have done to make UCNS a success.

We will hold our Annual Spring Board of Directors Meeting in San Diego on March 18. At that time, we will bid farewell to Anthony A. Amato, MD, who is completing his term as the representative of the Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology subspecialty. His seat will be filled by a representative of the Neurocritical Care subspecialty. I also want to acknowledge the major contribution that David C. Good, MD, FAAN, has made to UCNS as Chair of the Accreditation Council. His term will end in May. Lori A. Schuh, MD, FAAN, will step in to succeed Dr. Good as the Accreditation Council Chair.

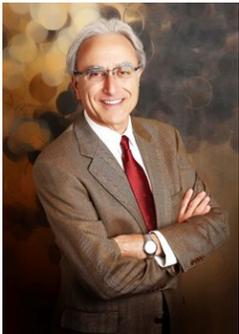
As usual, UCNS will have a booth at the Academy's Annual Meeting. We hope that you will stop by and greet our knowledgeable staff who can answer questions about UCNS accreditation and certification. The UCNS family is growing, and I hope that you will want to play an active role in helping shape our future.



Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN

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## Portrait of a Visionary: Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCh, FAAN



Stephen M. Sergay, MB  
BCh, FAAN

In 1998, American Academy of Neurology President Francis I. Kittredge, Jr, MD, FAAN, appointed Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCh, FAAN, to be chair of a new Commission on Subspecialty Certification. Sergay immediately got to work gathering information. He noted that the number of Academy sections was increasing substantially. In addition, surveys indicated that a high percentage of residents intended to enter fellowship training and were interested in subspecialty certification. Soon, he came to the conclusion that neurology needed to do more to help small, emerging subspecialties develop credibility and grow. He began talking with neurology leaders about the possibility of establishing a separate, nonprofit organization that would accredit fellowship programs and offer certification examinations in subspecialties that were not being served by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). He met with several independent boards and representatives of the ABPN, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the Neurology Residency Review Committee (RRC) to discuss his vision for the future. "There was a lot of disagreement about the appropriate role for subspecialization in neurology," he remembers. Still, he continued pursuing his dream. By 2001, he had obtained the support of the Academy, the American Neurological Association (ANA), Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN), Child Neurology Society (CNS), and the Professors of Child Neurology (PCN). "I thought it was very important to have all the major teaching organizations of neurology at the table," he says.

Shortly after the UCNS was established, its first Board of Directors met in May of 2003. Sergay was the first chair. After he finished his term, he passed the torch to Leslie A. Morrison, MD. After serving as president of the Academy from 2007 to 2009, Sergay resumed his full-time practice in Tampa, FL. Today he looks back proudly on the days when he helped give birth to UCNS. Recently he reflected, "There are times in life when things seem inevitable, whereas in the past they had seemed impossible. This has been my experience with the UCNS."

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## UCNS at the Annual Meeting

UCNS will hold its Board of Directors Meeting in San Diego on Monday, March 18. UCNS will also have a booth in the Exhibit Hall in conjunction with the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting. Knowledgeable staff will be available in booth #1000 to answer questions regarding UCNS accreditation and certification. Staff will also be present at several Academy section meetings to answer questions and update attendees regarding recent initiatives.

# Certification News

## Letter from the Certification Council Chair



Gregory Gruener, MD,  
MBA

On behalf of the Certification Council, I welcome Michael Schneck, MD, as the newest Council member. Dr. Schneck replaces Peter Donofrio, MD. I thank Dr. Donofrio for his service and look forward to working with Dr. Schneck. I am also pleased to announce that UCNS has successfully transitioned to our online certification examination application system, which is now in use for its third certification examination application period. The Neurocritical Care certification examination application will be available until July 15, 2013. This is the final year of the Neurocritical Care practice track; after this year only those physicians graduating from a UCNS-accredited program will be eligible to apply for certification.

When I wrote my first letter to you as Certification Council Chair in the fall of 2010, I remarked on the record-setting year that we were completing and looked forward to the next year's initiatives. Neurocritical Care's application turnout was part of that record-setting year, and I was pleased to watch the online application process become reality. I wrote that I hoped we would be able to keep the momentum going. Never did I expect that not only would we maintain the momentum, but we would exceed our expectations. Now UCNS's presence is widespread. I am happy to be a part of UCNS as we continue growing in our second decade.

Gregory Gruener, MD, MBA

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## Practice Track Pathways Closing in 2013 for Two Subspecialties

Important notice to all physicians interested in certification in either Neuro-oncology (NO) or Neurocritical Care (NCC): The practice track pathways will close following the 2013 examinations in these subspecialties. After 2013, only those who have completed a UCNS-accredited NO or NCC fellowship program will be able to sit for certification examinations in NO and NCC.

The NO application cycle is now closed. The NCC application became available on March 1, 2013, and the application deadline is July 15, 2013. Access to the online application can be requested at [www.ucns.org/certification](http://www.ucns.org/certification). Applications must be finalized and payment must be received by the application deadline.

## 2013 Certification Examination Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Neuroimaging	August 15, 2012	January 28- February 1, 2013	Pearson VUE
Neuro-oncology	January 15, 2013	July 15-19, 2013	Pearson VUE
Neurocritical Care	July 15, 2013	December 9-13, 2013	Pearson VUE

## 2014 Certification Examination Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Headache Medicine	April 15, 2014	October 6-10, 2014	Pearson VUE
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry	May 15, 2014	November 3-7, 2014	Pearson VUE
Neural Repair and Rehabilitation	July 15, 2014	December 14-19, 2014	Pearson VUE

## Diplomate Highlight



Mark W. Green, MD

**Mark W. Green, MD** is the director of the Center for Headache and Pain Medicine and professor of neurology, anesthesiology, and rehabilitation medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He is a UCNS diplomate in the subspecialty of Headache Medicine. In addition, Green is also the program director of the UCNS-accredited Headache Medicine fellowship training program at Mount Sinai. Green has been active in the practice of headache and facial pain since 1978. He has lectured throughout the world on this subject and has written numerous articles and books on headache and facial pain. Green was one of the first physicians to achieve UCNS Headache Medicine certification in 2006.

### **Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of neurology?**

In the mid '70s, when I decided to seek a PhD, I worked for a wonderful neurologist at Case Western Reserve University, who inspired me to practice medicine, specifically neurology.

### **Why did you decide to seek UCNS certification?**

For a teacher and practitioner to be credible, a certain standard knowledge base is necessary and should be demonstrated. The standards for these subspecialties are recognized by students, other teachers, and patients we care for.

### **How has UCNS certification impacted you?**

It has enabled me to direct a Headache Medicine program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where we are graduating new neurologists who become certified in Headache Medicine on a yearly basis. All of my Headache Medicine fellows, to date, work in academic medicine and share their skills with students and colleagues.

### **What would you like individuals in neurology and the public to know about UCNS certification?**

UCNS is an essential organization which assures that certified physicians are fully trained in the neurological specialties in which they practice.

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## Accreditation News



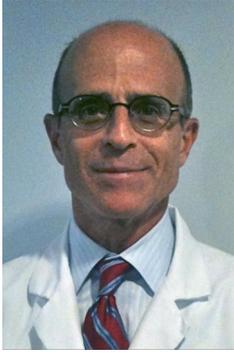
David C. Good, MD,  
FAAN

This will be my final letter to you as Accreditation Council Chair. As I look back at my six years with UCNS, I am pleased by what I see. The progress has truly been impressive. UCNS now has an educational presence in more than half of the 50 states. At our upcoming meeting, we will review applications for programs in all nine of our subspecialties. I have had the privilege of working with the amazing array of physicians comprising UCNS's leadership over my term. I have also been privileged to work with outstanding staff at the UCNS. Their organizational skills and dedication to their work have made my job much easier. I have no doubt that the success UCNS has seen over the past decade will continue.

Lori Schuh, MD, FAAN, will be my successor beginning June 1, 2013. Dr. Schuh is the neurology residency program director at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. Dr. Schuh will head a newly expanded Council comprised of department chairs and educators from various distinguished institutions across the country. The Accreditation Council recently added a ninth seat, now held by Neill R. Graff-Radford, MD, who is the program director of the Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry program at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. Dr. Schuh, Dr. Graff-Radford, and the other members of the Accreditation Council will continue working with the task force I appointed to review UCNS accreditation procedures in an effort to make them more streamlined and user-friendly. With this task force and the arrival of a program director on the Council, programs can rest assured that their feedback is taken seriously and that we will continuously improve UCNS accreditation.

David C. Good, MD, FAAN

## Program Director Highlight



Kirk Daffner, MD

**Kirk Daffner, MD**, is founder and chief of the Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology, and director of the Center for Brain/Mind Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In addition to being a UCNS diplomate in the subspecialty of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BNNP), Daffner is also the program director of the UCNS-accredited BNNP fellowship training program at Brigham & Women's Hospital, which was one of the first fellowship programs to be accredited by UCNS in 2006. He is chair of the Academy's Behavioral Neurology Section.

### Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of BNNP?

The short answer is that the brain is the most fascinating organ. Disorders of cognition, affect, and behavior that result from brain disease/dysfunction are among the most challenging aspects of medicine and have a profound impact on the lives of our patients. The rapid development of neuroscience is providing us with increasing tools for understanding and treating these conditions.

### Why did you decide to seek UCNS accreditation for your program?

We had a fellowship program in behavioral neurology/neuropsychiatry since the mid-1990s. We welcomed the establishment of clear standards of training in our discipline by the UCNS.

### How has UCNS accreditation impacted your program?

The UCNS accreditation process necessitated the articulation of a very clear set of training objectives, the development of explicit plans for ensuring that fellows reached these objectives, and the establishment of formal ways of assessing whether these objectives had been met. Accreditation by UCNS has also provided additional validation to the physicians who graduate from our program.

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## Program Changes

If you are planning changes in faculty, curriculum, or resources in your UCNS-accredited fellowship, please contact the Accreditation Council. The program change procedure and template letter are available on your subspecialty accreditation page at [www.ucns.org](http://www.ucns.org).

### Apply for UCNS Accreditation by June 1

The deadlines for fellowship programs seeking accreditation have changed. UCNS is now accepting applications until June 1, 2013. Programs approved following this deadline may be accredited as of December 1, 2013. The next deadline for program applications will be December 1, 2013.

## UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that were reviewed during the fall 2012 meeting and received accreditation from the UCNS effective December 1, 2012. Programs accredited at the spring meeting will be listed in the fall newsletter. A complete list of UCNS-accredited programs is available at [www.ucns.org/apps/directory/](http://www.ucns.org/apps/directory/). Newly-accredited programs and their fellowship directors are:

<b>Autonomic Disorders</b>	
Mayo Clinic, Rochester	Paola Sandroni, MD, PhD
<b>Behavioral Neurology &amp; Neuropsychiatry</b>	
Henry Ford Hospital	Rhonna S. Shatz, DO
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Paul E. Schulz, MD
<b>Geriatric Neurology</b>	
University of California, Irvine	Claudia Kawas, MD
<b>Headache Medicine</b>	
University of Texas Southwestern	Deborah I. Freidman, MD, MPH, FAAN
<b>Neurocritical Care</b>	
The Ohio State University	Chad M. Miller, MD
University of Maryland	Neeraj Badjatia, MD

## Questions About UCNS?



Becky Swanson  
Executive Assistant

Becky Swanson is the UCNS Executive Assistant. Diplomates, applicants, and programs calling with general inquiries will usually start by talking with her. If you have a question you would like answered in this section, email her at [bswanson@ucns.org](mailto:bswanson@ucns.org).

### Q: What steps are needed to maintain UCNS certification?

**A:** In order for a certificate to remain valid, a diplomate must renew his or her certification prior to the expiration date. In order to renew certification, a diplomate must:

1. maintain a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine,
2. continue to be a diplomate in good standing of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada (RCPSC) board that was required for eligibility upon application for initial UCNS certification,
3. take and pass a maintenance of certification examination, and
4. complete 300 Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or RCPSC approved category 1 continuing medical education (CME) hours, 60 (20%) of which must be related to the UCNS subspecialty certification.

The UCNS Policy on Maintenance of Certification can be found on each subspecialty's certification page on the UCNS website.

### Q: What is the difference between an annual accreditation fee and an application fee?

**A:** Programs are charged an annual fee to maintain their accreditation, and are invoiced for this fee every year in the spring. Programs applying for initial accreditation are required to pay an application fee and their first year's annual fee with the submission of their Program Information Form. Programs that are due for reaccreditation are invoiced for their application fee at the same time they are sent their Reaccreditation Information Form.

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## Staff

UCNS staff is available Monday-Friday to answer your questions regarding subspecialty membership, accreditation, and certification.

### Subspecialty Membership Inquiries

John Kohring, Executive Director, (612) 928-6106 [jkohring@ucns.org](mailto:jkohring@ucns.org)

### Certification Inquiries

Todd Bulson, Certification Manager, (612) 928-6067 [tbulson@ucns.org](mailto:tbulson@ucns.org)

### Accreditation Inquiries

Amanda Carpenter, Accreditation Manager, (612) 928-6065 [acarpenter@ucns.org](mailto:acarpenter@ucns.org)

### General UCNS Inquiries

Becky Swanson, Executive Assistant, (612) 928-6050 [bswanson@ucns.org](mailto:bswanson@ucns.org)



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- American Neurological Association  
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- Association of University Professors of Neurology  
[www.aupn.org](http://www.aupn.org)
- Child Neurology Society  
[www.childneurologysociety.org](http://www.childneurologysociety.org)
- Professors of Child Neurology, see also  
[www.childneurologysociety.org](http://www.childneurologysociety.org)

## SUBMIT STORY IDEAS

Any news or story ideas for UCNS readers?

We would like to hear from you. Submit feedback regarding this issue and/or story ideas for future issues to the UCNS Executive Office.

