

UCNS Newsletter

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Finkel to Receive American Headache Society Award

Alan G. Finkel, MD, a member director of the UCNS Board of Directors representing the subspecialty of Headache Medicine (HM), will receive the John R. Graham Senior Clinician's Forum Award at the upcoming American Headache Society Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Los Angeles June 22 through 25, 2006. Dr. Finkel is being honored for his commitment and tireless efforts to establish credentialing (accreditation of programs and certification of individuals) for HM. He is director of the University Headache Clinic at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is also associate professor in the neurology department.



Alan G. Finkel, MD

The John R. Graham Senior Clinician's Forum was established in 1989 as a feature of the American Headache Society's annual meetings. The candidate is chosen by the society's president and executive committee for his or her international leadership in research and education in the field of headache.

UCNS Chair

Leslie A. Morrison, MD

Vice Chair

Robert L. Macdonald, MD, PhD

Secretary/Treasurer

Harvey S. Singer, MD

Past Chair

Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCH

Directors

David L. Bachman, MD

P. David Charles, MD

Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD

Alan G. Finkel, MD

Kurt A. Jaeckle, MD

For more information about the UCNS, visit the UCNS Website at 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 neurological subspecialties and the quality of patient care.

Important Dates

April 1 – 8, 2006

UCNS exhibits at the AAN Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA

April 15, 2006

Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine certification applications due to UCNS Executive Office
www.ucns.org/certification/applications

May 18, 2006

Accreditation Council meeting to review Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry accreditation applications for the 2006 academic year

July 1, 2006

Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine accreditation applications due
www.ucns.org/accreditation/applications

September 18 – 22, 2006

Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry certification examination

September 25 – 29, 2006

Headache Medicine certification examination

Fall 2006

Fall Planning Retreat to include the UCNS Board, Accreditation Council, and Certification Council members

Certification Applications Due April 15

Applications for Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BN&NP) and Headache Medicine (HM) certification are now available on the UCNS Website at www.ucns.org. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2006, along with the \$1,200 non-refundable application and examination fee.

Examinations for BN&NP will be held September 18 through 22, 2006, and for HM on September 25 through 29, 2006. Applicants must choose one day during those periods to take the examination at a nearby Pearson VUE testing center. There are 200 questions and applicants will have up to four hours to complete the exam.

For more information, visit www.ucns.org/certification or contact Mari Mellick at mmellick@ucns.org or (651) 695-2719.

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Letter From the Chair

The year of 2005 was marked by a significant milestone for the UCNS: the accreditation of the first UCNS fellowship training programs in the field of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BN&NP). In less than two years of operations, the UCNS—through its dedicated subspecialty leadership, Board, and Council members—has implemented a credible and fair accreditation process. Soon, Headache Medicine (HM) programs will initiate this process, followed by Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology, Neuro-Intensive Care, and Neuro-Oncology. The UCNS accreditation arm will be strengthened by the accreditation of fellowship programs in other subspecialties.



Leslie A. Morrison, MD

The UCNS will soon reach another milestone in its development as a credentialing organization. In September, the UCNS will offer its first certification exams for physicians in the subspecialties of BN&NP and HM. Through the tireless work of our examination committee members and staff, these examinations will be offered at testing centers across the country.

At its fall 2006 planning retreat, the UCNS Board will explore the most effective ways to convey to neurologists the real value in holding a certificate in BN&NP or HM. Our entire leadership, including Board, Accreditation Council, and Certification Council members, will gather to discuss recognition of the UCNS and its certificate holders. This is among a number of important topics that will be considered at the retreat.

This is an exciting time in the development of the UCNS and true to our inclusive spirit, we welcome your insights. Topics that you would like the leadership of the UCNS to address are welcome, so please contact us.

We anticipate continued growth in 2006. As we plan future initiatives, we will remain faithful to the UCNS mission to enhance the quality of training for physicians in neurological subspecialties and the quality of patient care.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie A. Morrison MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie A. Morrison, MD
Chair, United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD, joined the UCNS Board of Directors in July 2005. She served on the Board of the American Academy of Neurology from 1999 to 2003, and is the chairman of neurology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

UCNS: Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of neurology?

LD: I wanted to be a doctor since I was in the third grade. I'm the first member of my family to practice medicine. I developed my interest in neurology during my third-year clinical clerkship where I had a wonderful experience.

UCNS: Where did you get your training and currently practice?

LD: I trained in neurology at Columbia University, and did a clinical neuro-oncology fellowship there as well. I did a second fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in neuro-oncology.

UCNS: What was your first reaction to the concept of neurologic subspecialty accreditation and certification?

LD: I was a big supporter when this first came up. The idea of neurologic subspecialization is critical to giving recognition, approval, and validation that neurologists can train in a subspecialty area and be certified. This is very important. In my own field, the subspecialty of neuro-oncology will never be an Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved subspecialty because it will not meet their requirements for subspecialty certification. However, in my work I have a huge interface with medical oncology, which is ACGME approved. It is important for neurologists who receive neuro-oncology training to be recognized outside our field as competent to treat these patients using chemotherapy, for example.

UCNS: When did you become involved in the discussions regarding neurologic subspecialty accreditation and certification?

LD: I was on the AAN Board of Directors along with Dr. Stephen M. Sergay, UCNS Past Chair. The topic came up back then and Dr. Sergay took on the job of exploring and

creating the UCNS. I was involved in the listening and discussion phases as we worked to move this forward within the AAN. We wouldn't have a UCNS if not for Dr. Sergay, and neurology would be worse off without the UCNS.

UCNS: Why did you become involved with the UCNS?

LD: I believe in the mission of this organization. The UCNS will play a critical role in the development of neurology in American medicine. All academic departments of neurology are developing subspecialty expertise, and the majority of residents go to subspecialty training. Even large private practice groups hire people with subspecialty expertise. This is who neurologists are now. This is the state of the art.

UCNS: What has been the impact of the UCNS since it was established in 2003?

LD: The UCNS is still getting its feet on the ground. The impact of the organization will be felt more once there are multiple subspecialties on board with certification programs, processes, exams, and certificates. What is amazing is how rapidly the UCNS has developed established processes and now is starting to certify people. I think that once certifying exams have started you will begin to see the effect in the neurologic community.

UCNS: What impact do you feel the UCNS will have on the future of neurology?

LD: This is the wave of the future; something that will make the field of neurology stronger while not undermining the general neurologist. There are an increasing number of areas where you want the expertise of subspecialists.

UCNS: How will the UCNS process be beneficial to both the generalist and the subspecialist?

LD: The process will benefit both. It will define subspecialties within neurology. There is no question it will



Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD

help the subspecialties and it will enable subspecialists to present credentials that come from an outside body to certify subspecialty training and proficiency. It will provide validation and recognition that would be hard to obtain any other way and enable the subspecialist to practice. If you've passed a certifying exam, it will be harder for hospitals to deny neurologists to write orders and perform procedures. For general neurologists, it will expand their role and provide critical support. I think the situation is similar to internal medicine—internists care for patients with cardiac disease but look to the cardiologist for additional expertise when appropriate.

UCNS: What would you like individuals in neurology and the public to know about the UCNS?

LD: The wider community of neurology understands this is happening and that it presents an opportunity to them. If they have expertise, it can be validated by the UCNS. Ultimately, that may guide the hiring of practitioners and academic neurologists. The public at large is savvy at using the healthcare system. They recognize what neurologists have to offer and they seek additional expertise when needed. The UCNS will help both the general neurologist and the subspecialist to deliver the best patient care possible.

Examination Committee Status

The UCNS is excited to have five subspecialties on board creating examinations. Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine have developed their examinations which will be offered in September 2006. Other subspecialty memberships of the UCNS include Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology, Neuro-Oncology and Neuro-Intensive Care. These three memberships are currently working with the UCNS Certification Council to create a content outline which will be the foundation of their exam writing. Their exams are projected to be held in 2007.

For more information on subspecialty certification, please visit www.ucns.org or contact Mari Mellick at mmellick@ucns.org or (651) 695-2719.

UCNS Accredits Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry Programs

Congratulations to these Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry programs that have received accreditation from the UCNS for the 2006 academic year.

The UCNS Fellowship Directory will be available on the UCNS Website soon at www.ucns.org.

PROGRAM

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR

Brigham and Women's Hospital	Kirk R. Daffner, MD
Columbia University	Karen Marder, MD, MPH
Dartmouth Medical School	Thomas W. McAllister, MD
The Johns Hopkins Hospital.....	Vani Rao, MD
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine (<i>Jacksonville, FL</i>)	Neill R. Graff-Radford, MD
Mayo Clinic (<i>Rochester, MN</i>)	Bradley F. Boeve, MD
University of California, San Francisco	
Memory and Aging Center	Bruce Miller, MD
University of Florida College of Medicine	Kenneth M. Heilman, MD

Program Directors: Apply for Accreditation by July 1, 2006

Program Information Forms for Headache Medicine programs and Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry that wish to apply for UCNS accreditation must be submitted by July 1, 2006. The applications can be found on the UCNS Website at www.ucns.org/accreditation/application.

For more information, or contact Mari Mellick at mmellick@ucns.org or (651) 695-2719.

UCNS

1080 Montreal Avenue • St. Paul, MN 55116 • www.ucns.org

Managing Editor

Mari E. Mellick, CAE, UCNS Director

Coordinating Editor

*Thomas S. Getchius,
UCNS Administrative Assistant*

UCNS Executive Office
1080 Montreal Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55116
Tel: (651) 695-2719
Fax: (651) 361-4819
Email: mmellick@ucns.org

The UCNS is sponsored by five parent organizations:

- American Academy of Neurology
www.aan.com
- American Neurological Association
www.aneuroa.org
- Association of University Professors of Neurology
www.aupn.org
- Child Neurology Society
www.childneurologysociety.org
- Professors of Child Neurology
see also 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.

www.ucns.org

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