

Contents

- 2.....Letter from the Chair
- 2.....UCNS Accredits Additional Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine Programs
- 2.....Applications, Fees Updated
- 2.....Visit UCNS Booth at AAN Annual Meeting
- 3.....Board Member Highlight
- 4.....Accreditation Profile
- 4.....Accreditation News
- 4.....Certification News

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For more information about the UCNS, visit the UCNS website at www.ucns.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the United Council for Neurologic Subsidiaries 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.

UCNS Certifies New Diplomates

The UCNS has issued certificates to 60 new diplomates in the subspecialty of Headache Medicine, 43 new diplomates in the subspecialty of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, and 91 new diplomates in the subspecialty of Neurocritical Care.

"This is another significant milestone for the UCNS," said UCNS Chair Leslie A. Morrison, MD. "I congratulate our new diplomates and those who have helped develop the UCNS's prestigious certification process that physicians are eager to take part in."

A total of 60 physicians in Headache Medicine took the certification examination and 60 received certification, which resulted in a 100-percent pass rate. A total of 45 physicians in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry took the certification

examination and 43 received certification, which resulted in a 96-percent pass rate. The new diplomates took certification examinations in October 2007. A total of 111 physicians in Neurocritical Care took the certification examination and 91 received certification, which resulted in an 82-percent pass rate. The new diplomates took the examination in December 2007.

The UCNS has now certified a total of 165 diplomates in Headache Medicine and 104 diplomates in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry since certifications examinations in these two subspecialties were first offered in 2006. This was the first year for the Neurocritical Care examination.

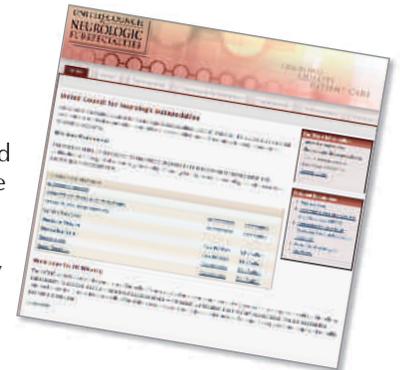
For a full list of the new UCNS diplomates, visit www.ucns.org/certification/diplomates.

Find Subspecialty Information Quickly with New Website

The UCNS has redesigned its website, making it easy to find the latest information on each subspecialty.

The new home page provides easy access to certification and accreditation information for each subspecialty member. The latest news is available both on the home page and within that subspecialty area. A new calendar allows users to track deadlines pertaining to them. The website also makes it easy to send comments or questions to the correct staff person.

To see the new website, visit www.ucns.org.



Important Dates

May 5-6, 2008: Accreditation Council meeting to review accreditation applications for the 2008 academic year

May 15, 2008: Deadline for applications for the UCNS Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry certification exams taking place November 10-14, 2008.

June 15, 2008: Deadline for applications for the UCNS Neurocritical Care certification exams taking place December 8-12, 2008.

July 1, 2008: Deadline for applications for accreditation for review and accreditation for the 2009 academic year.

July 7-11, 2008: Neuro-Oncology certification examination

Letter from the Chair



Leslie A. Morrison, MD

The UCNS is advancing its mission!

In March, the UCNS marked five years since its founding. In that time, we have accepted eight subspecialties as members, administered certification examinations in four subspecialty areas, and accredited 26 training programs in two subspecialty areas.

In all of these areas, we continue to grow. Two additional subspecialties—Neurorehabilitation and Infectious Diseases—are working on their applications for membership. The first certification examination is scheduled for this year in Neuro-Oncology, and accreditation applications are being reviewed in Neuro-Oncology and Neurocritical Care. One fellowship program in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry is already up for reaccreditation! Neuroimaging program requirements are complete and we are prepared to accept applications for accreditation this July.

Working to lead this growth are the many dedicated physicians who devote their volunteer time to advance the mission of the UCNS. I would like to thank P. James B. Dyck, MD, whose term on the UCNS Board of Directors ends in May. I also wish to recognize Robert Lisak, MD, who is completing his service as Chair of the Accreditation Council, Ian Butler, MD, who also

served on the Accreditation Council, and J. Clay Goodman, MD, who served on the Certification Council. Please join me in welcoming Paul Vespa, MD, as our newest member of the Board of Directors. On staff, we recently welcomed Tracy King as Accreditation Administrator.

To help manage our growth and communicate with our many subspecialties, we have redesigned our website. Please visit the site at www.ucns.org, to see the many improvements. New information is easy to find, whether you're looking at the home page or at your subspecialty area. You can quickly access information about certification or accreditation in any of our subspecialty areas right from the home page. A new calendar system lets you track deadlines related to your area. We've made it easier for you to contact the right staff person with your questions or comments. All these enhancements are underscored by a bright new look.

As always, we welcome your comments. Stop by our booth at the AAN Annual Meeting or send me an email. Join us in our mission to enhance the quality of training and patient care!

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

Certification News

Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry Exam Date and Application Deadline Change

The Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BN & NP) 2008 certification examination date has been changed to the week of November 10-14, 2008. The new application deadline is May 15, 2008.

For more information, visit the UCNS website at www.ucns.org/certification/applications or contact Todd Bulson at tbulson@ucns.org or (651) 695-2813.

Upcoming UCNS Certification Examinations

Subspecialty	Examination Date	Application Deadline	Location
Neuro-Oncology	July 7-11	January 15, 2008	Pearson Vue
Headache Medicine	October 6-10	April 15, 2008	Pearson Vue
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry	November 10-14	May 15, 2008	Pearson Vue
Neurocritical Care	December 8-12	June 15, 2008	Pearson Vue

Applications, Fees Updated

The UCNS has updated its applications and fee structure for 2008. Membership fees are \$1,000, which includes a \$500 annual membership renewal fee and a \$500 application fee. 2008 certification application fees are \$1,500. Accreditation application fees are \$3,150, which includes a \$2,000 non-refundable application fee and a \$1,150 first-year accreditation fee. The accreditation year is the academic year, July 1 through June 30. An annual accreditation fee will be assessed at \$1,150.

All fees are subject to change.

Visit UCNS Booth at AAN Annual Meeting

At the UCNS booth at the AAN Annual Meeting, visitors can receive information on membership and the accreditation and certification processes, certification and program accreditation applications and deadlines, and programs that have been accredited. The booth is #324 in the Exhibit Hall. Hours are:

- Monday, April 14
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
(during Poster Session)
- Tuesday, April 15 and Wednesday
April 16, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 17
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Board Member Highlight

Paul Vespa, MD, joined the UCNS Board of Directors in October 2007. He is an associate professor at UCLA, focusing on neurocritical care.

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

PV: It sounds somewhat corny, but ever since I can remember, I have wanted to help others and was intrigued with how the body and the brain worked. I am not sure why I gravitated towards medicine, but it seemed like it was something that I just had to do, and that I just had to be a doctor and help the sick. At the same time, I have always been fascinated by the brain, initially the behavioral aspects of the brain, and how malleable the brain is to learning new things, and new physical movements. I thought that understanding and being able to fix the brain was really important. As time passed and I learned about various fields of medicine, I soon realized that I wanted to practice neurocritical care and use many aspects of my medical training, as well as the neurology. Hence, I have ended up in an exciting and relatively new subspecialty of neurocritical care.

UCNS: Where did you train, and where do you currently practice?

PV: I completed both undergraduate and medical school at The Ohio State University and trained in neurology at the University of Virginia. I did fellowship training at UCLA and currently am in an academic practice at UCLA as an associate professor.

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

PV: I really liked this concept, perhaps because it was and is most important to the field of neurocritical care. Our subspecialty requires considerable additional training beyond the mandatory three-year neurology residency, and requires understanding and competence in the field of critical care medicine. In addition, subspecialty accreditation and certification provides a means for competent and dedicated individuals to receive acknowledgement of their abilities, and gain equal standing to similarly trained colleagues in internal medicine, anesthesia, and surgery.

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

PV: I first became involved with a group of neurointensivists about 15 years ago during a meeting of the American Academy of Neurology Section on emergency and critical care neurology.

UCNS: Why did you become involved with the UCNS?

PV: I became involved with UCNS because the UCNS and the neurocritical care subspecialty are in the infancy stages of development, and I think that it is quite important to offer strong and thoughtful leadership to the effort to solidify this process. The UCNS has the opportunity to do a lot of good for many people, through standardization and stewardship of the evolving subspecialties, and through discussion with other similar organizations in the field of medicine. I seek to offer constructive insight and hope to shape the processes for certification for the future.

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

PV: The impact has been to provide a tangible basis for training and certification in new growth areas in neurology, thereby facilitating the expansion of the scope of practice for neurologists.

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

PV: The UCNS will permit growth in neurology by increasing the scope of practice to many neurological diseases. This increased scope of practice enables neurologists to develop and utilize new technologies and treatments to treat patients with neurological disease, and will in the long run, help to establish/re-establish neurologists as the primary experts in neurological disease. The product of this will be better and more thoughtful care for patients, and a growth in the number of neurologists. Given the growing population of people over 65, this will be critical for the health of the nation.

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

PV: The answer requires a forecast of how the generalist and subspecialist will interact in a collaborative fashion. A model of this presently exists in our academic center. I would foresee that the generalist will be able to refer increased numbers of complicated and difficult-to-treat patients to like-minded colleagues, in an improved manner. Many of these referrals will be for patients in acute need of subspecialty care. This interaction will enable the generalist to longitudinally follow patients and provide continuity care, while not having to master every subspecialty area. This will unburden the generalist to increase the quality and productivity in the outpatient arena. That increase in quality and productivity will result in facilitating care for those lower intensity, general neurology patients who stand the best chances of remaining active and productive in society. The societal ramifications of enabling patients to remain healthy and not be burdened by neurological disease could be huge. In addition, the generalist will be able to focus on preventative care, such as for patients with mild cognitive impairment. At present, the generalist is spread too thin, needs to cover too large a scope of practice, and in many cases is providing neither acute care of patients in dire need nor preventative care. The role of subspecialization would be to facilitate a lasting solution to that problem.

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

PV: The UCNS should be the flagship of organized neurology, a flagship whose mission it is to improve the quality of care, to save lives, and to improve the nervous system health of the nation. The Institute of Medicine and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement have a significant effort underway to improve quality of care. The UCNS seems ideal to do this, through more training and certification of subspecialty practitioners.

Accreditation Profile

Bradley Boeve, MD, is the program director for the Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry fellowship program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The program received UCNS accreditation starting July 1, 2006.

UCNS: What prompted you/your program to seek UCNS accreditation?

BB: We sought accreditation to formalize the many facets of our training program, refine the educational aspects to be consistent with UCNS guidelines/suggestions (which were developed by a panel of experts and therefore deemed to be of high quality), and enhance recruitment of top-notch fellows.

UCNS: Why do you believe UCNS subspecialty program accreditation is important?

BB: Before UCNS accreditation, the various subspecialty programs "did their own thing" and frankly there was no good mechanism to learn from other programs what is good versus bad educational content, nor evaluation methods. The standardization that the UCNS accreditation process fosters makes training more comprehensive and consistent, thereby improving patient care by all of the graduates of the UCNS-accredited programs.

UCNS: The UCNS provides accreditation with the goal of enhancing the quality of training for physicians in neurological

subspecialties and the quality of patient care. Do you feel the UCNS is achieving this goal and can you describe how UCNS accreditation has impacted your program?

BB: While it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of the UCNS across all accredited programs, it is hard to imagine any program that has not improved the quality of training and quality of patient care. UCNS accreditation has led to many changes in our educational content and methods, and in the evaluation methods, and our institution clearly views our program more highly since we obtained accreditation. Fellowship candidates are seeking out programs that are UCNS accredited too.

UCNS: Have you seen an increase in interest in your subspecialty program since becoming UCNS accredited?

BB: Definitely yes.

UCNS: Do you believe UCNS accreditation will increase the recognition of your subspecialty?

BB: Yes.

Accreditation News

The next UCNS accreditation application deadline is July 1, 2008, for Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, Headache Medicine, Neurocritical Care, Neuroimaging, and Neuro-Oncology. Applications and payment must be received by the deadline to qualify for review and accreditation for the 2009 academic year. Applications can be downloaded from the UCNS website at www.ucns.org/accreditation/application.

For more information, contact Tracy King, Administrator of Accreditation, at tking@ucns.org or (651) 695-2816.

UCNS Accredits Additional Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine Programs:

Congratulations to the following Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Headache Medicine programs that have received accreditation from the UCNS beginning July 2008:

Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry:

University of Arizona / Fellowship Director: Geoffrey L. Ahern, MD, PhD

University of Massachusetts / Fellowship Director: Sheldon Benjamin, MD

Headache Medicine:

Roosevelt Hospital Center / Fellowship Director: Lawrence C. Newman, MD

For a complete listing of UCNS-accredited programs, access the UCNS Fellowship Directory at www.ucns.org

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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.