

## UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that have received accreditation from the UCNS beginning July 1, 2008. The programs in Neuro-Oncology and Neurocritical Care are the first to receive accreditation in these subspecialties.

In addition, the University of Florida College of Medicine Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry program, under Program Director Kenneth Heilman, MD, is the first program to receive reaccreditation and five-year full accreditation from the UCNS. (All programs initially receive two- or three-year provisional accreditation.)

Newly accredited programs and fellowship directors are:

Headache Medicine	Fellowship Director	Neurocritical Care	Fellowship Director
Brigham & Women's Hospital	Paul Rizzoli, MD	Cleveland Clinic	J. Javier Provencio, MD
		Massachusetts General Hospital	Jonathan Rosand, MD, MSc
Neuro-Oncology	Fellowship Director	Medical College of Wisconsin	Michel Torbey, MD, MPH
Duke University	James Vredenburgh, MD	New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University	Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MSc
Massachusetts General Hospital	Scott Plotkin, MD, PhD	Northwestern University	Sarice Bassin, MD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	Andrew Lassman, MD	Rush University Medical Center	Richard Temes, MD, MS
		SUNY Upstate Medical University	Yahia Lodi, MD
		UCLA	Paul Vespa, MD, FCCM
		University of Cincinnati	Lori Shutter, MD

## Accreditation News

### Program Directors: Submit Program Changes to UCNS

Directors of UCNS-accredited programs should be aware that the UCNS must be notified in advance of any major changes to a UCNS-accredited program. A major change includes a change in program director, change in institutional sponsorship, loss of significant resources including key faculty, discontinuation of rotations to participating institutions, change in length of program, or change in complement of fellows.

A Program Change Request must be submitted in writing. More information and a template letter are available on the UCNS website or by contacting Tracy King at [tking@ucns.org](mailto:tking@ucns.org) or (651) 695-2816.

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The UCNS is sponsored by five parent organizations:

- American Academy of Neurology [www.aan.com](http://www.aan.com)
- American Neurological Association [www.aneuroa.org](http://www.aneuroa.org)
- 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.

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### Secretary/Treasurer

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### Directors

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P. David Charles, MD  
Alan G. Finkel, MD  
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Paul M. Vespa, MD  
Lawrence R. Wechsler, MD

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 neurological subspecialties and the quality of patient care.*

## UCNS Certifies First Diplomates in Neuroimaging, Neuro-Oncology

The UCNS held its first certification examinations in the subspecialties of Neuroimaging and Neuro-Oncology in 2008. The UCNS issued certificates to 24 new diplomates in Neuroimaging and 24 new diplomates in Neuro-Oncology.

"We are thrilled to have the first diplomates in the subspecialties of Neuroimaging and Neuro-Oncology," 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."

For a full list of the new UCNS diplomates, visit [www.ucns.org/go/subspecialty/diplomates](http://www.ucns.org/go/subspecialty/diplomates).

A total of 44 physicians in Neuroimaging took the certification examination in February 2008 and 24 received certification, which resulted in a 55-percent pass rate. A total of 26 physicians in Neuro-Oncology took the certification examination in July 2008 and 24 received certification, which resulted in a 92-percent pass rate.

The UCNS has now certified 165 diplomates in Headache Medicine, 102 diplomates in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, 99 diplomates in Neurocritical Care, 24 in Neuroimaging, and 24 in Neuro-Oncology.

## UCNS Grants First Full Accreditation

The UCNS has granted full continued accreditation to a program for the first time in its history. Programs are now accredited in four subspecialty areas, and a total of 40 programs are currently accredited by the UCNS.

"These are all remarkable achievements for an organization that was launched only five years ago," said David C. Anderson, MD, chair of the Accreditation Council. "It's especially exciting that we have a program that has already been through the provisional accreditation cycle and been approved for full accreditation."

The UCNS grants two- or three-year provisional accreditation to programs initially. Programs are then reviewed for the full five-year continued accreditation.

The number of subspecialties with UCNS-accredited fellowships will continue to expand, as Neuroimaging is now accepting applications for accreditation for the 2009 academic year and several other subspecialties are refining their training requirements in preparation for offering accreditation.

The next accreditation application deadline is December 31, 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](http://www.ucns.org).

## Important Dates

**Fall 2008:** Accreditation Council meeting to review accreditation applications for the 2009 academic year

**December 31, 2008:** Deadline for applications for accreditation for review and accreditation for the 2009 academic year

**January 15, 2009:** Deadline for applications for the UCNS Neuro-Oncology certification exam taking place July 13–17, 2009

**April 15, 2009:** Deadline for applications for the UCNS Autonomic Disorders certification exam taking place October 5–9, 2009

**June 15, 2009:** Deadline for applications for the UCNS Geriatric Neurology and Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology certification exams taking place December 7–11, 2009

## Letter from the Chair



Leslie A. Morrison, MD

The UCNS celebrates more than five years of success. Although we are a young and small organization, we are growing and maturing. Please welcome our new Executive Director, John Kohring, who brings a wealth of expertise from a background in consulting focusing on strategic initiatives for nonprofit organizations and businesses. He has also served as General Counsel of New England Deaconess Hospital and managed programs of the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health. Former Executive Director Mary Post, CAE, has moved into the executive director position of the American Board of Anesthesiology. We wish her the very best in her new role and we thank her for her excellent management and determination in moving the UCNS forward.

We also welcome our new AC Chair, Dr. David Anderson, who has taken on the task of standardizing many of our accreditation processes. Dr. José Biller continues to lead the Certification Council with great knowledge, skill, and energy. The council members continue to provide excellent support to the UCNS.

The UCNS Board of Directors is composed of five parent directors and four subspecialty directors with liaisons from the ABPN and the RRC. We thank Robert Macdonald for his service to the UCNS as he moves on as President Elect of the American Neurological Association, and welcome Allison Brashear as his replacement. We thank David Bachman for his leadership on the Board as we welcome Lawrence Wechsler (Neuroimaging) as a new Subspecialty Director.

Our accomplishments are realized only because of the creativity of our parent boards, which had the foresight to invest in the UCNS. They continue to dedicate financial support, guidance, and nominees to our Board and Councils. We look forward to the completion of our first decade in the advancement of neurologic subspecialties and our impact on patient care.

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

## Certification News

### Important UCNS Certification Examination Schedule Update

The UCNS will not offer certification examinations in 2009 for the subspecialties of Headache Medicine, Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, and Neurocritical Care. Exams for these subspecialties will be offered again in 2010. For more information, visit the UCNS website at [www.ucns.org](http://www.ucns.org).

### Upcoming UCNS Certification Examination

#### 2008 Certification Exam Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Neuroimaging	September 15, 2007	February 4-8	Pearson Vue
Neuro-Oncology	January 15, 2008	July 7-11	Pearson Vue
Headache Medicine	April 15, 2008	October 6-10	Pearson Vue
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry	May 15, 2008	November 10-14	Pearson Vue
Neurocritical Care	July 15, 2008	December 8-12	Pearson Vue

#### 2009 Certification Examination Schedules

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Neuroimaging	August 15, 2008	February 2-6	Pearson Vue
Neuro-Oncology	January 15, 2009	July 13-17	Pearson Vue
Autonomic Disorders	April 15, 2009	October 5-9	Pearson Vue
Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology	June 15, 2009	December 7-11	Pearson Vue
Geriatric Neurology	June 15, 2009	December 7-11	Pearson Vue

## Board Member Highlight



Allison Brashear, MD

Allison Brashear, MD, joined the UCNS Board of Directors in May 2008. She is professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC.

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

**AB:** I was influenced by Dr. Dyken and Dr. Pascuzzi. I

wanted to go into a field that involved patient care and focused on problem solving. At Indiana University there was a strong emphasis on the neuro-examination. Dr. Dyken, the chair at IU for more than 20 years, used to have weekly chairman rounds. The medical students would present the patient's history and a very detailed neurologic examination. After the first week the students were asked for a three-sentence summary, and no more. It was the focus on taking a complex problem with a history and physical exam and distilling it to its essence. While this approach was first championed by Dr. Dyken as a way to examine patients, it is an approach that has held me in good stead throughout my clinical and administrative activities. I first met Dr. Pascuzzi when I was a junior medical student and he was a brand new faculty. It was his enthusiasm for teaching and patient care that really piqued my interest. His passion for teaching the intricate problem-solving that encompasses neurological clinical diagnosis instilled in me the same keen interest and insight.

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

**AB:** I trained at Indiana University School of Medicine with an internship in IM and residency in neurology. I was on the IU faculty from when I finished my residency in 1991. When I left IUSM in 2005 I was professor and also Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs and Program Development.

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

**AB:** I am supportive of certification in subspecialties. I believe we need to be mindful of those specialties for which this is beneficial and those where it may not be useful. There are many fields where this can be tremendously helpful. We are working on building a Neuro ICU and the new neurocritical care boards will be key to this program.

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

**AB:** I have been involved with the ABPN over many years as an examiner. I became chair of neurology at Wake Forest in 2005. Through my position, I am very aware of the issues with program certification.

**UCNS: Why did you become involved with the UCNS?**

**AB:** I was asked by Dr. Pedley to represent the ANA on the board. I have been actively involved in the ANA and AAN for many years. I believe that strong neurology organizations are essential for our specialty. Chairs of neurology should be particularly attuned to strengthening neurology organizations.

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

**AB:** As a chair I am aware of the impact of UCNS certification in several areas, such as critical care and headache. The ability to outline the skills needed to be an expert in these subspecialty fields can only enhance the care of our patients and improve the training we provide residents and medical students.

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

**AB:** As our field grows, UCNS will provide a foundation to grow small subspecialties. It will help doctors identify their passions and interests and improve job satisfaction. It will provide patients with a roadmap for an increasingly complex health care system.

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

**AB:** Neurology as a whole will be benefited by strong general and specialty programs. Any department of neurology needs generalists and subspecialists. The best departments figure out how to make this work well for all concerned. As a result we take better care of our patients and train more insightful and well-rounded neurologists.

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

**AB:** Neurologists need to be aware of the opportunities to be certified. A collaboration of the organizations represented will be helpful in making the UCNS more widely known.