

CONTENTS

- 2.....Letter from the Chair
- 2.....Certification News
- 2.....Visit UCNS Booth at AAN Annual Meeting
- 3.....Board Member Highlight
- 4.....UCNS Accredits New Programs
- 4.....Accreditation News

UCNS Celebrates Five Years of Major Milestones

In response to the trend across all medical specialties toward subspecialization, the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS) was founded to provide accreditation and certification for subspecialties of neurology. The organization offers sound structural support and formal recognition for emerging areas of science and practice.

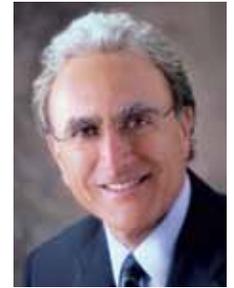
Today, the UCNS celebrates milestone achievements with eight subspecialty members, more than 600 diplomates, and nearly 50 accredited fellowship programs across the country. The UCNS will celebrate these milestone achievements at the AAN Annual Meeting in Seattle. Visit the UCNS booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center to join the celebration.

UCNS Chair Leslie A. Morrison, MD, said, "Our dedicated physician volunteers lead all of this growth and advance our mission to enhance the quality of training and patient care. The certification and accreditation processes strengthen each subspecialty, but they also strengthen the field of neurology overall, and create opportunities for emerging subspecialties."

"It's been encouraging to watch as the



Leslie A. Morrison, MD



Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCH, FAAN

UCNS has grown and matured over the last several years," said outgoing AAN President Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCH, FAAN, who led the AAN Commission on Subspecialty Certification and served as UCNS's first chair. "The UCNS is providing opportunities for neurologic subspecialties collectively to solidify their training requirements and for those trained in these to have their expertise recognized by certification."

ABOUT UCNS

The UCNS was incorporated in the spring of 2003, approved its first subspecialty member in 2004, received its first applications for accreditation in 2005, and offered its first examinations and accredited its first programs in 2006.

Autonomic Disorders and Geriatric Neurology Certification Examination Update

Examination Dates:

Autonomic Disorders: December 7–11, 2009

Geriatric Neurology: December 7–11, 2009

Application Deadline: July 15, 2009

The Autonomic Disorders and Geriatric Neurology examination committees have been working diligently on their respective certification

examinations. The examination development is now in its final stages. Applications for both certification examinations will be available the first week of April on the UCNS website at www.ucns.org. Applications, licensure, supporting documentation and \$1,500 payment must be submitted to the UCNS Executive Office by the July 15, 2009 application deadline.

UCNS Chair
Leslie A. Morrison, MD

Vice Chair
Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD

Secretary/Treasurer
Harvey S. Singer, MD

Directors
Allison Brashear, MD
P. David Charles, MD
Alan G. Finkel, MD
Kurt A. Jaeckle, MD
Paul M. Vespa, MD
Lawrence R. Wechsler, 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

May 18–20, 2009: Accreditation Council meeting to review programs and new fellowship applications

July 1, 2009: Deadline for accreditation applications for accreditation beginning July 2010

July 15, 2009: Deadline for applications for the UCNS Autonomic Disorders and Geriatric Neurology exams taking place December 7–11, 2009

Letter from the Chair



Leslie A. Morrison, MD

As I write this letter, we are preparing for the spring UCNS board meeting on April 27 in Seattle. Scheduled to coincide with the American Academy of Neurology's Annual Meeting, the UCNS meeting will be an occasion to celebrate several accomplishments. Since its founding in 2003, the UCNS has welcomed eight subspecialty members, accredited almost fifty programs nationwide, and certified more than 600 diplomates. If you are in Seattle for the Academy's meeting, we hope that you will stop by our booth to learn more about the UCNS.

Since last fall, we have been working hard on a number of initiatives. Volunteer committees for our two newest subspecialties, Geriatric Neurology and Autonomic Disorders, have been developing examinations to be given in December of this year. Developing state-of-the-art subspecialty certification examinations requires a significant time commitment by expert volunteers, to whom we are deeply grateful. In October, the UCNS board adopted common program requirements that we believe will help strengthen program requirements and standardize the accreditation review process. Early this year, we conducted a survey of the nation's neurology department chairs. Their responses will help us as we plan for the next stage of our development.

The UCNS enjoyed a period of growth in 2008. The year ahead will be challenging for us as well as other nonprofit organizations. However, with the strong support of our five parent organizations, I believe that the UCNS is positioned for success in the years ahead.

Leslie A. Morrison, MD
UCNS Board Chair

Certification News

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	July 15, 2009	December 7–11	Pearson Vue
Geriatric Neurology	July 15, 2009	December 7–11	Pearson Vue

2010 Certification Examination Schedules

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Headache Medicine	April 15, 2010	October 12–16	Pearson Vue
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry	May 15, 2010	November 9–13	Pearson Vue
Neurocritical Care	July 15, 2010	November 30–December 4	Pearson Vue
Geriatric Neurology	July 15, 2010	December 14–18	Pearson Vue

Visit UCNS Booth at AAN Annual Meeting

UCNS leadership and staff will be on hand at the AAN Annual Meeting in Seattle. Join us at the UCNS booth in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center Exhibit Hall to have your questions answered and receive information on the accreditation and certification processes, certification and program accreditation applications, and updates on the subspecialties.

UCNS booth #106 hours:

Monday, April 27	5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 28	11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 29	11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 30	11:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Board Member Highlight



Lawrence R. Wechsler,
MD, FAAN

Lawrence R. Wechsler, MD, FAAN, joined the UCNS Board of Directors in 2008. He is professor and interim chair of the department of neurology at the University of Pittsburgh and director of the UPMC Stroke Institute.

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

My father was a physician and my role model. I followed him on hospital rounds starting at a very young age and accompanied him on house calls many weekends and evenings. A college course on neuroscience by an inspiring neurologist, Norman Geschwind, started me on a path to neurology. The brain was then an unknown frontier of medicine. Everything about neurology and neuroscience was new and exciting. Many years later, this has not really changed.

Where did you train and where do you currently practice?

I trained in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and completed a stroke fellowship at MGH as well. I am currently interim chair of the department of neurology at the University of Pittsburgh and director of the UPMC Stroke Institute.

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

I considered this an important advance for neurology to establish subspecialties and give them credibility. It was clear that neurology was moving in the direction of subspecialization and a process for accreditation and certification was clearly necessary.

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

I was a member of the original commission on subspecialization chaired by Steve Sergay that resulted in the creation of the UCNS.

Why did you become involved with the UCNS?

I have a long involvement with neuroimaging and currently serve as the president of the American Society of Neuroimaging. I was a strong proponent of the transfer of neuroimaging certification from the ASN to the UCNS. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to this important organization.

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

Subspecialty certification for neurologists is now a reality. The UCNS has created a credible process for neurologists to become

identified with special expertise in specific areas of neurology. Residents and neurologists early in their careers are now more likely to pursue specialty training because of the established training curriculum that assures they will achieve an adequate knowledge base in their chosen field.

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

The UCNS certification process will result in a stronger identity for neurologists and greater uniformity of training and knowledge among neurologists. It will help attract more of the best and the brightest in medicine to our specialty.

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

Both the generalist and specialist benefit from establishing the expertise of neurologists in traditional areas of practice. There is and will always remain an important role for the general neurologist. The importance will only grow with additional subspecialization.

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

The driving force behind the creation of the UCNS is greater recognition of specialized skills within neurology that will benefit both patients and physicians.

How do you envision that UCNS accreditation and certification will assist the growth of neuroimaging as a recognized area of science and practice?

UCNS accreditation will encourage neurologists to pursue this important area of neurology and assure that neurologist imagers are adequately trained. Certification in neuroimaging by the UCNS should qualify neurologists to obtain privileges at any institution they choose. Neuroimaging is an integral part of neurology and the cognitive skills that are unique to the neurologist are essential to the future clinical and research growth of neuroimaging.

UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that have received accreditation from the UCNS beginning July 1, 2009.

Newly accredited programs and fellowship directors are:

Neurocritical Care	Fellowship Director
Duke University	David L. McDonagh, MD
Washington University	Michael N. Diringier, MD
Emory University	Owen B. Samuels, MD
Henry Ford Hospital	Panayiotis Varelas, MD, PhD
University of Colorado	Robert T. Neumann, MD, PhD

Neuro-Oncology	Fellowship Director
St. Joseph Hospital	William Shapiro, MD
UCLA	Timothy Cloughesy, MD
University of Michigan	Larry Junck, MD

Accreditation News

Common Program Requirements. While each Subspecialty Member works with the Accreditation Council (AC) to develop training requirements tailored to its unique area of science and practice, the UCNS has baseline standards across subspecialties to further ensure excellence in training. Over the past year, the AC has developed UCNS Common Program Requirements to clearly distinguish the baseline standards and the subspecialty specific requirements. Subspecialty representatives were consulted for feedback. The UCNS Board approved and ratified the UCNS Common Program Requirements at its fall meeting and the requirements are being incorporated into training requirements presently in development. The AC will integrate the Common Program Requirements into existing training requirements when presently approved program requirements enter their five-year document review. Program

directors within the subspecialties will be notified in advance of any changes. A copy of the UCNS Common Program Requirements document is available at www.ucns.org.

Program Changes. If you are planning changes in your UCNS accredited fellowship, please contact the Accreditation Council. The program change procedure and a template letter are available for your convenience on your subspecialty accreditation page at www.ucns.org.

New Subspecialty Training Requirements. The Accreditation Council is developing training requirements for Autonomic Disorders, Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology, and Geriatric Neurology. If you would like advance notification when the accreditation applications are available for these subspecialties, contact Tracy King, Accreditation Manager, at tking@ucns.org.

UNITED COUNCIL
FOR
NEUROLOGIC
SUBSPECIALTIES

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

Managing Editor
John Kohring
UCNS Executive Director

Tel: (651) 695-2762
Fax: (651) 361-4862
Email: jkohring@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.