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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 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.

Successful Year Leads to Continued Growth and Opportunity

2010 was a strong year for UCNS. The ninth subspecialty, Neural Repair and Rehabilitation (NRR), was approved, several new training programs were accredited, and the number of physicians applying to sit for certification examinations was the highest since UCNS was founded. 2011 promises to be an exciting year of growth. The Accreditation and Certification Councils are working with the NRR and Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology (CNMP) subspecialties to accredit fellowships and develop certification examinations. In addition, the Accreditation Council will be working on several significant policy initiatives and UCNS will offer certification examinations in five subspecialties.

"It is the tremendous momentum that began in 2010 that makes 2011 such an exciting year for UCNS. We have nine subspecialties, and in 2011 we expect to top 80 accredited programs and 1,000 diplomates. This continued growth in UCNS demonstrates that neurologists understand the value of accreditation and certification, and recognize UCNS as the standard for neurological subspecialty accreditation and certification," said Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN, UCNS Chair.

Said Lisa Rogers, DO, chair of the American Academy of Neurology's Neuro-oncology section, "UCNS is a vehicle for subspecialty growth and professional credibility. The UCNS practitioner certification and training program accreditation processes document its role in ensuring the highest quality of academic and clinical subspecialty care and training."



Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN



Lisa Rogers, DO

UCNS at Annual Meeting – Visit Booth #707

Stop by booth #707 in the Hawaii Convention Center to ask a question or to meet John Kohring, Executive Director, and Todd Bulson, Certification Manager. They will be available during AAN Exhibit Hall hours to answer your questions regarding subspecialty accreditation and certification.

Important Dates

April 11, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting

May 2-3, 2011

Accreditation Council Meeting

June 15, 2011

Autonomic Disorders Certification Examination Application Deadline

April 11-14, 2011

At the AAN Exhibit Hall

June 1, 2011

Accreditation Application Deadline for Fall Review

July 15, 2011

Geriatric Neurology and Neurocritical Care Certification Examination Applications Deadline

Letter from the Chair



Paul M. Vespa, MD,
FCCM, FAAN

As we prepare for our UCNS annual meeting in Honolulu, I want to acknowledge the distinguished service to UCNS of several dedicated volunteers. In April, Harvey S. Singer, MD, FAAN, will retire as a Board member representing the Professors of Child Neurology (PCN). Dr. Singer has served on the Board since the founding of UCNS and has provided us strong, thoughtful leadership throughout our formative years. In addition, Dr. Singer has served as Secretary/Treasurer through a period of significant financial challenges and growth. In May, David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN, will retire as Chair of our Accreditation Council. Many of you know that Dr. Anderson has been selected to receive the 2011 AAN A.B. Baker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Neurologic Education. Somehow during his busy years serving as chair of the University of Minnesota's Department of Neurology, Dr. Anderson found time to provide us wise and thoughtful guidance as we built our capacity to accredit programs. Finally, in April Lawrence Honig, MD, PhD, FAAN, will complete his term as a Board member representing the Geriatric Neurology subspecialty. We are sincerely indebted to each of these outstanding leaders who have played significant roles in helping UNCS achieve its mission.

As you know, 2010 was a very successful year in which we achieved a budget surplus. However, our financial performance was only one aspect of a successful year. We also undertook several ambitious programmatic initiatives. The Board has approved a comprehensive maintenance of certification policy and we are pilot testing an innovative flexible fellowship initiative that promises to help programs attract physicians interested in academic careers. In addition, the Accreditation Council is working on a progressive proposal that will take advantage of new technologies to allow us to conduct site visits without the costs associated with extensive travel and lodging.

2011 is off to a good start. During the year, we look forward to working on significant policy initiatives that will position UCNS to make significant contributions to the advancement of neurology.



Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN

Board Member Highlight – Imad T. Jarjour, MD



Imad T. Jarjour, MD

Imad T. Jarjour, MD joined the UCNS Board of Directors in 2010. Dr. Jarjour is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Neurology and Developmental Neuroscience program at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX.

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

Medicine was so attractive to me as a career because of the opportunities to help people overcome illness and become well again. I chose neurology due to the great influence of one of my attending neurologists, Dr. Richard Young, during my residency training in pediatrics. Moreover, I am fascinated by the process of diagnosing various neurological disorders and touched deeply by the magnitude of disability and suffering such disorders may cause to children and families.

Where did you train and now currently practice?

I have had extensive training at some of the finest academic institutions. After graduating from Damascus University Medical School, I trained in Pediatrics at the M.S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State University, followed by a residency in child neurology and a fellowship in brain hemodynamics and metabolism at the University of Pittsburgh. I am currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine and a Senior Attending Child Neurologist at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

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

I had a firsthand experience in 1988 during my child neurology residency training of developing a new clinical and research fellowship program in brain hemodynamics at the University of Pittsburgh. Years later, I was so excited to hear about the UCNS and its role in neurologic subspecialty accreditation and certification.

[Continued on page 6](#)

Certification News

Letter from the Certification Council Chair



Gregory Gruener, MD,
MBA

What a great start to 2011. My hope to carry 2010's amazing momentum into 2011 was realized as UCNS received more applications than expected for the Neuro-oncology examination, which will be offered in July. There are still three examinations coming in 2011 including opportunities to become certified in Autonomic Disorders, Geriatric Neurology, and Neurocritical Care. By the fall newsletter I hope to announce that UCNS has certified more than 1,000 subspecialists, a goal I am positive we will achieve.

As mentioned in this newsletter, the Certification Council also implemented its maintenance of certification policy on January 1. All diplomates as of December 31, 2010, should have received a letter outlining what this policy means to you. I thank the Maintenance of Certification Task Force consisting of myself, Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN, Lawrence S. Honig, MD, PhD, FAAN, Benson Munger, PhD, John Kohring, and Todd Bulson, for their hard work in drafting this policy and ensuring that it not only reinforces the quality of UCNS certification but that it is also user-friendly and understandable for the diplomates.

I look forward to a successful 2011 and reporting back in the fall on our number of diplomates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Gruener, MD, MBA".

UCNS Maintenance of Certification Implemented

All UCNS diplomates are granted a time-limited certificate, which expires on December 31 of the tenth year after the date of issuance. At its April 12, 2010 meeting, the UCNS Board of Directors approved a maintenance of certification policy that became effective January 1, 2011, and applies to all current and future diplomates. The policy sets forth the requirements to maintain certification after the UCNS certificate expires. There are four requirements that must be met during the 10-year cycle in order to be recertified for another 10-year period. The diplomate must: 1) maintain a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine, 2) continue to be in good standing in the primary specialty of an ABMS or RCPSC member board that was required for eligibility when he or she applied for initial UCNS certification, 3) complete 300 ACCME or RCPSC approved category 1 CME hours, 60 (20%) of which must be related to the diplomate's subspecialty, and 4) take and pass a UCNS recertification examination.

For those diplomates who were certified prior to the effective date of the policy, CME requirements will be prorated. The same CME credits may be used to satisfy the maintenance of certification requirements for multiple specialties and subspecialties. You may review additional information on the implementation of this policy through the maintenance of certification link for your subspecialty on the UCNS website, www.ucns.org. The website also contains frequently asked questions. In addition, information regarding maintenance of certification was mailed to all diplomates certified as of December 31, 2010. If you have not received your mailing or a subsequent email, please contact the UCNS office as soon as possible to verify your contact information.

Diplomate Highlight



B. Lee Peterlin, DO

B. Lee Peterlin, DO is certified in Headache Medicine. Dr. Peterlin is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Director of JHU Headache Research at the Johns Hopkins Headache Center.

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

This is difficult to answer. As far back as I can remember I have always wanted to help people. It may have stemmed from the fact that my brother who is only a year younger than I am was frequently hurting himself when we were growing up—either by pretending he was Evel Knievel on his bicycle or by seeing how far from the top of a tree he could jump. During the initial phases of my medical training I was planning to specialize in internal medicine, but became fascinated by the challenges associated with diagnosing and treating CNS disorders. I completed my neurology residency and a neurophysiology fellowship with the intention of devoting my time to direct patient care. After spending a year in private practice, I became impressed by the volume of patients who sought treatment for headaches. Despite my best efforts, many remained refractory to current treatments. This led me to pursue a headache fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center under Drs. Thomas N. Ward and Morris Levin. It also led to my commitment to conduct headache research.

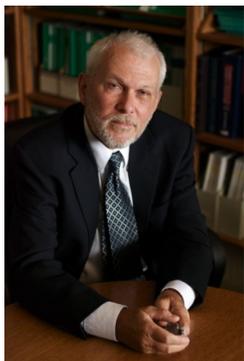
Where do you currently practice?

I currently practice at Johns Hopkins University Bayview Medical Center where I am the Director of Headache Research.

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Accreditation News

Letter from the Accreditation Council Chair



David C. Anderson,
MD, FAAN

Greetings from the Accreditation Council. This issue marks a transition for us as I complete my term as an Accreditation Council member and hand the role of Chair to my colleague, David Good, MD, FAAN. Dr. Good is a professor and the chair of neurology at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and has served on the Accreditation Council since 2007.

2011 is an important year for accreditation. The Council has undertaken many initiatives, including piloting flexible fellowships, reviewing faculty certification criteria, updating the common program requirements, implementing new policies, and researching what a site visit should look like in the 21st century.

I have enjoyed my service on the Accreditation Council and watching UCNS and its programs grow as the organization carves a path for excellence in subspecialty accreditation and certification.

Best wishes,



David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN

Apply for UCNS Accreditation by June 1

The deadlines for fellowship programs seeking accreditation have changed. UCNS is now accepting applications until June 1, 2011. Programs approved following this deadline may be accredited as of July 1, 2012. The next deadline for program applications will be December 1, 2011.

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.

Program Director Highlight



Paul B. Rizzoli, MD

Paul B. Rizzoli, MD is the program director of the UCNS accredited Headache Medicine program at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Rizzoli is also the director of the John R. Graham Headache Center.

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

I come from a family of physicians and never really considered doing anything else. In grade school, I was pictured in the local newspaper using a tuning fork, and I still carry one today; I apparently have always been drawn to the neurosciences.

Where did you train and now currently practice?

Following three years of training in internal medicine, I entered the Longwood Neurology Training Program in Boston, a unique experience combining duties at the Brigham and Women's, Beth Israel and Boston Children's Hospitals. After graduation I entered private practice locally. Some years later I joined the staff at Faulkner Hospital, site of one of the original headache clinics in the country started by Dr. John R. Graham. When, in 1999, the Faulkner and Brigham and Women's Hospitals merged, the decision was made to update and modernize headache services here.

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

From the outset, and in memory of Graham's expertise in headache management and of the love and loyalty expressed by his patients, clinical and academic training was considered a primary mission of the John R. Graham Headache Center at Faulkner Hospital as a means to achieve our goal of improving the quality of headache management. Thus we eagerly sought UCNS accreditation and were among the first group of programs to receive this status. We have since witnessed an explosion of interest in training in headache and have benefitted from the vitality and vigor that a training program provides to a department. It has been a duty and a responsibility but also an honor to participate in the training of headache physicians who have proved to be a source of enrichment of our program and of our daily activities.

How has UCNS accreditation impacted your program?

Being a UCNS accredited training program has fostered scholarship, research, collegiality, patient care advances and innovation, not to mention endless questions, discussion and debate, and thus has truly proved to be the cornerstone of our clinic's philosophy and daily life.

Diplomate Highlight – B. Lee Peterlin, DO

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Why did you decide to seek UCNS certification?

I received certification from the UCNS in Headache Medicine as it provides acknowledgment of subspecialty training beyond residency and adds further validation of Headache Medicine as an important and growing subspecialty in neurology.

How has UCNS certification impacted you?

Too early to say.

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

I think it is important for the public to know that there is a subspecialty certification process in place for headache and to consider this when choosing a headache specialist for their care.

UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that were reviewed during the fall 2010 meeting and were approved for accreditation. A complete list of UCNS-accredited programs is available at <http://www.ucns.org/apps/directory/>. Newly accredited programs and fellowship directors are:

Headache Medicine	
University of Michigan	Wade M. Cooper, DO
Neurocritical Care	
Baylor College of Medicine	Jose I. Suarez, MD
Loyola University Medical Center	Michael J. Schneck, MD, FAAN, FAHA
Neuroimaging	
Dent Neurologic Institute	Laszlo Mechtler, MD

2011 Certification Examination Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Neuroimaging	August 15, 2010	January 31-February 4, 2011	Pearson Vue
Neuro-oncology	January 15, 2011	July 11-15, 2011	Pearson Vue
Autonomic Disorders	June 15, 2011	November 28-December 2, 2011	Pearson Vue
Neurocritical Care	July 15, 2011	December 5-9, 2011	Pearson Vue
Geriatric Neurology	July 15, 2011	December 12-16, 2011	Pearson Vue

2012 Certification Examination Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Headache Medicine	April 16, 2012	October 1-5, 2012	Pearson Vue
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry	May 15, 2012	November 5-9, 2012	Pearson Vue
Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology	June 15, 2012	November 26-30, 2012	Pearson Vue
Neural Repair and Rehabilitation	July 16, 2012	December 10-14, 2012	Pearson Vue

Board Member Highlight – Imad T. Jarjour, MD

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

My first discussions regarding neurologic subspecialty accreditation and certification took place in 2008 during the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Autonomic Nervous System Section of the American Academy of Neurology in my role as Counselor. This AAN section worked in collaboration with the American Autonomic Society and the UCNS on establishing Autonomic Disorders as the eighth Subspecialty in the UCNS. I was glad to accept the UCNS Board of Directors' invitation in 2009 to join the Board and represent the Child Neurology Society.

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

As of December 31, 2010, we had 74 UCNS-accredited fellowship programs in the United States and Canada, 989 UCNS-certified diplomates, and nine neurological subspecialties. These achievements are having a positive impact on the quality of neurological care for tens of thousands of patients in the US and worldwide.

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

I strongly believe that the UCNS has already started to shape the future of neurology by establishing an accreditation process with training tracks and certification examinations for important subspecialty fields of neurological medicine. Well-trained physicians from various medical specialties who are certified by UCNS are providing high quality care, excellent teaching, and ground-breaking research, at some of the finest US academic and community medical centers and private practices.

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

The UCNS process has great benefits for the generalist, who can now find access to well-trained and experienced physicians in various neurologic subspecialties, and this in turn will help improve the health care of complex neurological disorders by primary care physicians. Moreover, UCNS-certified subspecialists are recognized increasingly by the medical staff and academic chairmen of great hospitals as providers of much needed neurological care, and educators of medical students, residents, and fellows, and key collaborators in basic science and clinical translational research.

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

The UCNS plays a pivotal role in setting high standards of excellence in the education, medical training, and certification in some of the most complex disciplines in neurology. I encourage the public and my fellow neurologists to recognize the special expertise and skills of UCNS-certified physicians in various UCNS neurologic subspecialties. The UCNS-accredited programs are helping physicians make the best use of the tremendous new medical knowledge and advances in medical technology in very common neurological disorders.

Staff

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

Membership and Subspecialty Inquiries John Kohring, Executive Director, (651) 695-2762, jkohring@ucns.org

Certification Inquiries Todd Bulson, Certification Manager, (651) 695-2813, tbulson@ucns.org

Accreditation Inquiries Amanda Carpenter, Accreditation Manager, (651) 332-8681, acarpenter@ucns.org

General UCNS Inquiries Becky Swanson, Executive Assistant, (651) 695-2716, bswanson@ucns.org



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- 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.

