

CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair2
 Board Member Highlight2
 Certification News.....3
 Examination Schedule.....3
 Diplomate Highlight4
 Accreditation News5
 Newly Accredited Programs..5
 Program Director Highlight...6
 Staff7

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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.

Neurology® Article Outlines UCNS Role in Subspecialization in Neurology



An article about the role of UCNS in subspecialization is featured in the November 1, 2011 issue of *Neurology*® (Volume 77, Number 18). Authored by Paul Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN, Stephen Sergay, MB BCh, FAAN, and UCNS Executive Director John Kohring, the article describes why UCNS was established, how it operates, and what it has accomplished. The authors argue that by offering subspecialty accreditation and certification, UCNS advances the practice of neurology and improves patient care by helping neurologists assume leadership roles in the treatment of patients.

Anatomy of a Complete Certification Examination Application



Becky Swanson
Executive Assistant

I am often asked by exam applicants what they can do to ensure that their application is accepted by the Certification Council. My biggest piece of advice is: **Make sure you have read the eligibility requirements** and that you meet them. Also, **be thorough when completing the application.**

Don't forget to list the institution name and location. **Be specific about your institution's location.** Other items to be mindful of are dates. Dates are required for medical education, residency training, primary specialty certification, CME activities, practice time, and when you sign your application. **Please provide the exact month, day, and year where requested.**

List each CME activity individually. If you are applying under the CME practice track pathway, **you must list each CME activity in the table.** The Certification Council reviews each CME title for relevance to the examination subspecialty. Listing only "various topics" or sending the CME certificates without listing them in the table is not sufficient. If additional space is needed to list CME activities, please contact us for a full-page table.

Continued on page 3

Important Dates

January 3, 2012

Headache Medicine
Certification Examination
Applications Available

April 2, 2012

Neural Repair and
Rehabilitation
Certification Examination
Applications Available

April 23-26, 2012

At the AAN Exhibit Hall

February 1, 2012

Behavioral Neurology &
Neuropsychiatry
Certification Examination
Applications Available

April 23, 2012

Board of Directors Meeting
New Orleans, LA

June 1, 2012

Accreditation Application
Deadline for Fall Review

Letter from the Chair



Paul M. Vespa, MD,
FCCM, FAAN

In the spring, UCNS staff will be moving into the Academy's new building in Minneapolis, which is under construction. We are grateful for the continuing support of the Academy and our other parent organizations.

The terms of Thomas C. Chelimsky, MD, FAAN, who represented Autonomic Disorders, and Daniel I. Kaufer, MD, FAAN, who represented Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, ended October 31. We thank Dr. Chelimsky and Dr. Kaufer for their service. The Board elected Deborah I. Friedman, MD, FAAN, to represent Headache Medicine and Andrew B. Lassman, MD, to represent Neuro-oncology. Recently, Dr. Friedman joined the faculty at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. Now at Columbia, Dr. Lassman formerly was a program director at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. The UCNS bylaws call for member subspecialties to be represented for two-year terms on a rotating basis.

While the fiscal year is not yet complete, we believe that our year-end financial picture will be strong. This is due to continued growth in the numbers of accredited programs and certification examination applications. You can read about this growth in the reports of Drs. Gruener and Good.

Paul M. Vespa, MD, FCCM, FAAN

Board Member Highlight – Kester J. Nedd, DO



Kester J. Nedd, DO

Kester J. Nedd, DO joined the UCNS Board of Directors in 2010. Dr. Nedd is an Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami, FL

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

I chose practicing medicine after witnessing the death of my young brother and feeling the frustration of not being able to contribute to his recovery. I chose neurology after working at my college on a project in animal behavior and learning how animals communicate. After understanding the developmental sequence of humans and the mechanisms of recovery to the nervous system, I saw parallels between animals and how they behave and humans and how they recover. As a result, I chose to work in the field of Neurological Rehabilitation, an up-and-coming field in neurology. I have a strong interest in how utilizing therapeutic modalities such as neuropharmacology, behavioral and neuropsychological therapy, prevention and neuroprotection can impact recovery and the quality of life of individuals who are afflicted with neurological conditions.

Where did you train and now currently practice?

I received my medical degree from University of Medicine and Bioscience, formerly the University of Health Science, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, MO, and my post graduate training in neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine at the Jackson Memorial Hospital System. I did a fellowship in Neurological Rehabilitation and have been on the faculty at the University of Miami Department of Neurology under the direction of its chair, Ralph Sacco, MD. I currently serve as the Director of Neurological Rehabilitation and Associate Director of UHealth sports in charge of the concussion clinic. In addition, I am the Associate Medical Director for the Jackson Health System International Health program.

Why did you become involved with the UCNS?

I became involved in the UCNS as the representative of the group of physicians providing care to patients needing neurorehabilitation. Neural Repair and Rehabilitation is one of the most recent subspecialties to seek accreditation and certification from UCNS. I am passionate about the field, as it is one of the unique subspecialties that is focused on finding ways to prevent injuries to the nervous system with an additional goal of promoting recovery and empowering individuals to become functionally independent despite their disabilities.

[Continued on page 4](#)

Certification News

Letter from the Certification Council Chair



Gregory Gruener, MD,
MBA

As I hoped in the spring, I am happy to report that UCNS has now certified over 1,000 physicians in seven subspecialties. An interview with the 1,000th diplomate, Mariecken Fowler, MD, is included in this newsletter. Our numbers continue to increase, and presently we have 1,092 diplomates with over 238 planning to sit for the remaining 2011 exams. UCNS diplomates may be found in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four Canadian provinces. In 2012 we will offer three examinations. The schedule is below.

Next year marks the final opportunities for physicians to apply for two examinations via the practice track. Additional information regarding the examinations, what the practice track is, and how this may affect you is included in the following article.

Gregory Gruener, MD, MBA

Practice Track Pathways Closing in 2012 for Two Subspecialties

Important notice to all physicians interested in certification in either Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BNNP) or Headache Medicine (HM): The practice track pathways will close following the 2012 examinations. After 2012, only those who have completed a UCNS-accredited BNNP or HM fellowship program will be able to sit for certification examinations in BNNP and HM.

The HM application will be available in January of 2012 and the application deadline is April 16, 2012. The BNNP application will be available in February of 2012 and the application deadline is May 15, 2012. Applications, payment, and all attachments must be received by the application deadline.

Anatomy of a Complete Certification Examination Application Continued from page 1

Another common oversight is the proper electronic signature. **UCNS requires that electronic signatures are preceded and followed by the forward slash symbol (/John Doe/).** An example is provided on the application. Handwritten signatures are also acceptable when scanned and sent with the application.

Last, but certainly not least, are the attachments – specifically the letters confirming academic appointments and attesting to practice time. Template letters are provided to help your colleagues write letters that supply only the necessary information. **Please ask your colleagues to use the template language.** These letters are not meant to be letters of recommendation. They are simply to verify the information as it is contained in your application in the most concise way possible. Please also note that **all letters must be on letterhead and include a proper signature.**

Please **submit your application and any supporting documents electronically.** Word documents and PDFs are preferred. There is no need to mail hard copies of anything except for the payment. If you have any questions regarding the application and what information it should contain, please contact us.

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
Neural Repair and Rehabilitation	July 16, 2012	December 10-14, 2012	Pearson Vue

2013 Certification Examination Schedule

Subspecialty	Application Deadline	Examination Date	Location
Neuroimaging	August 15, 2012	January 28-February 1	Pearson Vue
Neuro-oncology	January 15	July 15-19	Pearson Vue
Autonomic Disorders	June 17	November 18-22	Pearson Vue
Geriatric Neurology	July 15	December 2-6	Pearson Vue
Neurocritical Care	July 15	December 9-13	Pearson Vue

Diplomate Highlight



Mariecken V. Fowler, MD

Mariecken V. Fowler, MD is certified in Neuroimaging and is the one-thousandth diplomate to be certified by the UCNS. Dr. Fowler is the Medical Director of Neurosciences at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, VA.

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

I have always enjoyed getting to know new people and problem-solving. Practicing medicine allows me to do both of these things throughout my day. Neurology is one of the areas of medicine where we still have many mysteries and are constantly gaining new insights. I think all neurologists love to learn - and neurology pushes us to constantly do this.

Where do you currently practice?

I am a partner in a private practice: Winchester Neurological Consultants in Northwest Virginia (Winchester). I am also Medical Director of Neurosciences for the hospital, Winchester Medical Center.

Why did you decide to seek UCNS certification?

I have learned Neuroimaging during my time in Winchester and have helped to train three Neuroimaging fellows. Given my skill set in interpreting MRIs and CTs of the nervous system, I felt it was important to obtain official certification.

How has UCNS certification impacted you?

My peers in the medical profession, patients, and insurance companies have more faith in the quality of the interpretation of Neuroimaging studies.

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

The certification exam is quite rigorous and those able to obtain UCNS certification in Neuroimaging are extremely qualified individuals and very skilled at the interpretation of MRIs and CTs.

Board Member Highlight

Continued from page 2

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

UCNS is a unique organization that allows us all to look at the field of neurology through non-traditional glasses. We, as neurologists, have been known as the traditional group in a mysterious, yet scientific field focused on the diagnosis of complicated neurological problems. UCNS is now providing opportunities to emerging subspecialties in neurology to thrive.

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

Given the new trends in the science of the brain, our understanding of neurological disorders and the recovery process, and the political and societal issues that we face, UCNS offers our profession the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of an emerging community of health care delivery. UCNS gives the next generation of neurologists a chance to think of their careers in a way that addresses the needs of the world in which health care is delivered. UCNS represents the emerging future of our profession.

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

The UCNS processes will introduce new concepts that will help us understand where the field of neurology is going. It will keep us competitive in medicine, especially when it comes to areas where we compete with other specialties. We have seen the neurology profession losing ground to other medical and surgical specialties where we have given up the chance to excel in areas where we have the qualifications to deliver services. Neurologists can now be competitive with other specialists by becoming certified in UCNS subspecialties.

What would you like the public to know about the UCNS?

UCNS is not a group of nerdy neurologists sitting in a room focused on only maintaining traditional ways of doing business. We want to take the good from the neurology tradition and embrace the opportunities we see in front of us. We are embracing the future to stay competitive and to offer the best opportunities to neurologists who want to make a difference.

Accreditation News

Letter from the Accreditation Council Chair



David C. Good, MD,
FAAN

I would like to thank David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN, for his tireless work as Chair of the Accreditation Council for the past six years. We will continue his efforts to work closely with academic institutions to improve the accreditation process. As of July 1, 2011, UCNS accredits subspecialty programs in over half of the neurology residency locations in the United States.

The Accreditation Council continues to work on several initiatives to further enhance UCNS accreditation, including revising the common program requirements for clarity, finalizing a web-based application system, and launching a flexible fellowship program. More details of these exciting endeavors will follow in future correspondence.

David C. Good, MD, FAAN

Continuing Accreditation

In 2011, UCNS reviewed 17 programs for continuing accreditation, 15 of which received full accreditation. The 2012 reviews will include 25 programs due for review. The Accreditation Council will review these programs during the spring 2012 meeting. Programs due for reaccreditation in 2012 should have already received their Reaccreditation Information Form (RIF) and continuing accreditation invoice, both of which are due by January 31, 2012. If you have not received your RIF and invoice, or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Carpenter, Accreditation Manager, at acarpenter@ucns.org or (651) 332-8681.

Apply for UCNS Accreditation by June 1

The deadlines for fellowship programs seeking accreditation have changed. UCNS is now accepting applications until June 1, 2012. Programs approved following this deadline may be accredited as of July 1, 2013. The next deadline for program applications will be December 1, 2012.

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 for your convenience on your subspecialty accreditation page at www.ucns.org.

UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that were reviewed during the spring 2011 meeting and received accreditation from the UCNS effective July 1, 2011. 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	
Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Mark Green, MD
University of Pittsburgh	Robert Kaniecki, MD
Neurocritical Care	
University of Minnesota Medical School	Mustapha Ezzeddine, MD
Neuroimaging	
NIH/NINDS	Steven Warach, MD

Program Director Highlight



David B. Arciniegas, MD,
FANPA

David B. Arciniegas, MD, FANPA is the Michael K. Cooper Professor of Neurocognitive Disease, Director of the Neurobehavioral Disorders Program, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, CO.

Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry?

Coming from a multigenerational medical family, I was exposed to and interested in medicine at a very early age. My specific interest in neuroscience developed during high school when my science teacher in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Mr. Dennis Kwasny, provided me with intra- and extracurricular opportunities to learn more about this field. Neuroanatomy and neurochemistry captured my interests and my fascination with the clinical consequences of brain dysfunction deepened quickly. I decided to undertake a career in medicine and entered the Integrated Flexible Premedical/Medical Program at the University of Michigan in the fall of 1985. My biomedical sciences coursework in Ann Arbor was complemented by equally engaging studies of psychology and philosophy. After completing my clerkships in neurology and psychiatry, I decided to pursue a career in which I could integrate this constellation of interests. This led me to begin my graduate medical education in psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

As a medical intern, I rotated on our inpatient neurology services for one month with Christopher Filley, MD, Director of the Behavioral Neurology Section in the Department of Neurology, and for two months with C. Alan Anderson, MD, then a resident in neurology. In their company, I found support for a transdisciplinary approach to the study of brain-behavior relationships and a shared enthusiasm for the integration of behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry. Our associations fostered a series of educational experiences that crystallized my desire to focus my career on studying the psychiatric aspects of neurological conditions, contributing to investigations of the neurological bases of psychiatric disorders, and providing clinical care to individuals affected by neurobehavioral disorders. With the support of Dr. Filley and our colleagues in the Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry, we created a three-year clinical fellowship in neuropsychiatry and neuroscience research through which I entered the field of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry.

Where do you currently practice?

I practice at the University of Colorado Hospital and its affiliate, the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo. In both of these settings, I provide inpatient Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry consultations. I also direct the Neuropsychiatry Clinic at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, in which I provide outpatient consultations and treatment to persons with cognitive, emotional, and behavioral disturbances associated with neurological conditions.

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

After joining the faculty of the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, I directed the Neuropsychiatry Fellowship Training Program in the Department of Psychiatry. This fellowship provided a pathway for physicians with primary training in psychiatry to enter this field. This program complemented the training pathway for neurologists provided by Dr. Filley's Behavioral Neurology Fellowship in the Department of Neurology. Although the local environment required us to maintain administratively separate fellowship programs, Drs. Filley, Anderson, and I comprised the core faculty for both fellowships, developed a shared clinical and didactic curriculum, and provided identical training experiences to our fellows regardless of their primary specialty.

Our experiences informed the development of the American Neuropsychiatric Association's neuropsychiatry fellowship core curriculum, and facilitated my partnering with Daniel I. Kaufer, MD, to lead the Joint Committee on Subspecialty Certification of the American Neuropsychiatric Association (ANPA) and the Society for Behavioral and Cognitive Neurology (SBCN). Our interdisciplinary committee produced the Core Curriculum for Training in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and developed the joint application made by ANPA and SBCN for subspecialty membership in the UCNS. Admission of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry into the UCNS created a national context that allowed our faculty group in Colorado to put our transdisciplinary philosophy into practice by combining our fellowships into a single, UCNS-accredited, interdepartmental Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry fellowship training program.

Continued on page 7

Program Director Highlight Continued from page 6

How has UCNS accreditation impacted your program?

Five-year accreditation of our fellowship training program by the UCNS, coupled with UCNS certification of our core faculty in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, externally validated our subspecialty and interdepartmental training approach and enhanced our program's local standing and reputation. UCNS accreditation also ensures our listing on the UCNS website directory, which increases our program's national visibility and supports our recruitment of outstanding fellows. Listing on that directory also places us in an august group of fellowship training programs and thought leaders whose company we are honored to keep and to communicate to our institutional officials.

Perhaps most importantly, UCNS accreditation supports the development of our trainees' professional identity as subspecialists in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry. By participating in a fellowship program with national standing, knowledge, and skills required to provide high-quality care to persons with neurobehavioral disorders, and obtaining subspecialty certification, our program's graduates develop a professional identity and personal commitment to the field of Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry that will carry it forward another generation.

Questions About UCNS?



Becky Swanson
Executive Assistant

Becky Swanson has been the UCNS Executive Assistant since December 2009. She previously worked at an allied health certifying agency and came to UCNS with a variety of certification and accreditation experiences. Diplomates, applicants, and programs calling with general inquiries will usually start by talking with her. With this issue of the newsletter, we begin a new feature in which Becky answers frequently asked questions about UCNS. If you have a question you would like answered, e-mail her at bswanson@ucns.org.

Q: I am applying for certification under the practice track with an academic appointment. How many letters do I need to submit with my application?

A: At most, you would need three letters. You must submit one letter from your department chair confirming your academic appointment, one letter from your department chair attesting to your practice time, and one letter from a physician colleague attesting to your practice time. To make the process more efficient, your department chair may combine his or her two required letters into one. Please use the template language for the letters, which may be found in the application appendices on each subspecialty certification page during the exam application period.

Submit Your News

UCNS wants to promote the accomplishments of its diplomates and program faculty. If you have news you would like to include in our newsletter, please send it to acarpenter@ucns.org.

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 Office.

