**Diplomates Prepare for Recertification**

UCNS certifications are time-limited, expiring on December 31 of the tenth year after the certificate’s issuance. UCNS Certification Council Chair Gregory Gruener, MD, MBA, says that the UCNS Board of Directors, Certification Council, and examination committees have worked hard to assure that the UCNS recertification process is reasonable. “We understand physicians’ concerns, and we have designed a program that is simple and meaningful, without being onerous,” he says. In order to retain UCNS certification, diplomates must:

- maintain a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine,
- remain a diplomate in good standing in their primary specialty of the ABMS or RCPSC member board that was required for initial certification,
- complete a specified number of ACCME- or RCPSC-approved category 1 CME hours, 20 percent of which must be subspecialty specific, and
- take and pass a recertification examination.

Diplomates who became certified in Headache Medicine (HM) or Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BNNP) in either 2006 or 2007 will be the first to complete the recertification process. Because an examination will not be offered in 2017, 2007 HM and BNNP diplomates will need to take the 2016 examinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Certified</th>
<th>Number of CME Needed</th>
<th>Application</th>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNNP</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2/1/2016</td>
<td>5/16/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>42</td>
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Continued on page 8

**UCNS Welcomes New Chair Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD**

Ralph Józefowicz, MD, was elected chair of the UCNS Board of Directors in April. Dr. Józefowicz is professor of neurology and medicine and Associate Chair for Education in the Department of Neurology at the University of Rochester. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology with honors from Johns Hopkins University in 1975 and his MD degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1979. For several years, he served as the liaison to UCNS from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He was interviewed by John Kohring, executive director of UCNS.

Q: The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) nominated you to be its representative on the UCNS Board and thought you would be a great chair. You are a very busy man. Why did you accept this new responsibility?

A: I accepted the role of UCNS chair because of my commitment to the AAN and the neurology community, as well as subspecialty neurology education.

Continued on page 2

**Important Dates**

- December 1, 2015: Accreditation application deadline for spring 2016 review
- January 1, 2016: HM certification examination applications available
- February 1, 2016: BNNP certification examination applications available
UCNS Welcomes New Chair Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD
Continued from page 1

Given my background as a neurology residency program director and my former service on the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the ACGME Neurology Residency Review Committee, I believe that I have the skill set to lead the UCNS into its next phase. The next chapter of the UCNS will be challenging, as many practice tracks, which have allowed many of our subspecialists to sit for the certifying examinations, are ending. For some of our smaller subspecialties, the pipeline of graduates from our accredited fellowships is small and below the threshold necessary to cover the cost of developing and administering certification examinations.

Q: You asked us to schedule a fall strategic planning session to begin your term as chair. What are the issues the Board will tackle in this session? What do you hope will come out of it?

A: Whenever I take on a new leadership position, I like to engage all stakeholders in strategic planning to ensure that all of us are on the same page. The primary goal of our strategic planning retreat in October is to bring together the UCNS leadership to evaluate the current status of certification and accreditation for small subspecialties, and to develop a strategic plan for the next several years for the UCNS. The specific objectives of this retreat are to:

- Evaluate the current state of the UCNS, including its subspecialties, and to determine if the UCNS is meeting the present needs of neurologists.
- Review the financial status of the UCNS and investigate potential new revenue sources.
- Some of the topics that we will consider include:
  - How to respond to competition from non-neurology specialties.
  - How to advocate more effectively for recognition by insurers.
  - Should the UCNS pursue certification and accreditation for internationally trained neurologists?

Q: Tell us something about your background and why you chose to enter the medical profession.

A: I grew up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, a blue-collar, Polish-Catholic neighborhood that today is becoming very “hipster” because of Brooklyn’s renaissance. Although neither of my parents was a professional, they instilled in my brother and me a zeal for setting the bar high and achieving our best potentials. My brother, who was 10 years older than I, became a neurologist and, thus, a very important role model for me.

I fell in love with neurology during my medical internship at the University of Rochester, when I rotated with Bob Joynt and Berch Griggs, both of whom became my most important mentors. Very early on, teaching became a passion for me, and I quickly set goals for myself to not only be the best teacher that I could be, but also to direct teaching programs, which I currently do at the University of Rochester. My involvement with the AAN is directly due to Bob Joynt and Berch Griggs, who introduced me to AAN leadership early in the course of my career. I feel very fortunate to have been able to craft a career for myself in neurologic education, not only locally and nationally, but also internationally.

Q: What will the practice of neurology look like in 10 years?

A: Although many are predicting dramatic changes in how medicine will be practiced in the future, I believe that the role of the neurologist will not be much different than it is today. There will be a greater need for neurologists, given the aging population who will be developing neurological diseases as they live longer. Primary care physicians have a significant degree of neurophobia and will be relying on neurologists to diagnose these disorders and treat and counsel their patients. Hopefully, the changes in health care funding will recognize the important role that neurologists will play in caring for our aging population in the future.

Q: You are an honorary professor at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and you take a group of neurology residents there every year. What do the residents learn from this experience?

A: I have been a visiting professor at Jagiellonian University for the past 20 years, and have been directing the neurology clerkship in their English language program for the entire time. Each year, I bring all of my senior residents as well as 10 University of Rochester medical students to participate in teaching approximately 40 Polish medical students in this program. My residents each give several lectures, lead case study groups, and conduct attending rounds daily in the neurology clinic, teaching at the bedside. This experience prepares them for the next phase of their career as attending neurologists. In addition, my residents experience working in a completely different medical system. The word “doctor” means “teacher”; the Krakow experience strengthens my residents’ teaching skills, which not only makes them better teachers of students, but also of their patients.

Q: You are a lover of the arts, especially music. What can the arts tell us about the relationship between the practice of medicine and the human condition?

A: Medicine is both an art and a science. The science of medicine is not that difficult to teach, and the medical school curriculum is structured to effectively teach the scientific underpinnings of medicine. The art of medicine, however, cannot be taught in a didactic fashion, but rather depends on one’s own character that is then shaped by mentorship in the clinical arena. Many physicians have a strong background in the humanities, including visual arts and music. The humanities allow us to express emotion that describes the human condition. I firmly believe that the emotions that I experience through classical music, especially choral compositions, allow me to better empathize with my patients and students.
Certification News

Letter from the Certification Council Chair

Recertification, while important, isn’t the only thing that the Certification Council and certification examination committees have been working on. In addition to the initial certification and recertification examinations that will be offered in 2016 for HM and BNNP, the third Autonomic Disorders (AD) certification examination will be offered. While the numbers of applicants for past AD examinations have not been what we expected, we all want to contribute to the success of this subspecialty. We urge AD subspecialists to apply for the 2016 examination to support the recognition and growth of this subspecialty. Applications will be available in April.

Those of you who applied for a recent certification examination may have noticed that we are trying something new. In an effort to be more environmentally sustainable, as well as to get communications to applicants quicker, we are now handling many of our communications, including application approvals, electronically. It is very important that you keep UCNS up-to-date if your contact information has changed.

Gregory Gruener, MD, MBA
Cyndya Shibao, MD, completed a research fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Italo Biaggioni in the division of clinical pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. Her area of research was the treatment of orthostatic hypotension in autonomic disorders and the field of hypertension, particularly obesity-associated hypertension. She is an assistant professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University and joined the Vanderbilt Autonomic Dysfunction Clinic as an attending physician. Dr. Shibao obtained certification in Autonomic Disorders in 2011.

Q: Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of Autonomic Disorders?

A: As a young physician-scientist, I have pursued my medical training with a goal of a career in academic medicine with an emphasis on patient-oriented research. I attended medical school at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru. I was a post-doctoral fellow in the Vanderbilt Autonomic Dysfunction Center doing research on the autonomic contribution to blood pressure regulation. As part of my project, I studied patients with autonomic disorders as a pathophysiological model for sympathetic mediated hypertension. I still remember the first time I saw one of these patients, I was amazed by the profound fall in blood pressure on standing and their ability to still maintain consciousness. I became interested in the pathophysiology of the disease and started doing research on pharmacological probes to treat orthostatic hypotension, supine hypertension, and post-prandial hypotension. While doing research on these patients, I realized that there were few clinical experts in this area. Most of the patients I saw were evaluated by multiple specialists, underwent costly tests and procedures, and were put on multiple medications without any clinical benefit. Hence, I decided to take a two-year break from my research career and go back to clinical medicine to complete my training. I became a physician-scientist and joined the Autonomic Dysfunction Center as a faculty member and became one of the attending physicians in the autonomic service. One of the activities that I enjoy the most during my clinical time is teaching residents about autonomic disorders, diagnosis and treatment. This is one of the fields in which you really intermix your knowledge of physiology and pharmacology and directly apply it to a disease process.

Q: Why did you decide to seek UCNS certification?

A: I felt it was important for my clinical practice to have a certification that recognized me as an expert in the clinical management of autonomic disorders. Also, I knew that the certification would help our area to be recognized as a subspecialty and a pathway for us to attract new physicians to our field.

Q: How has UCNS certification benefited you?

A: I am board certified in internal medicine and the referral process from other internists to practice was cumbersome. The UCNS certification helped me to be recognized as an autonomic disorder expert and see patients as a consultant.

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### 2016 Examination Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache Medicine: Initial and Recertification</td>
<td>April 15, 2016</td>
<td>October 17-21, 2016</td>
<td>Pearson VUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Neurology &amp; Neuropsychiatry: Initial and Recertification</td>
<td>May 16, 2016</td>
<td>November 14-18, 2016</td>
<td>Pearson VUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autonomic Disorders</td>
<td>July 15, 2016</td>
<td>December 5-9, 2016</td>
<td>Pearson VUE</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 2017 Examination Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neurocritical Care: Initial and Recertification</td>
<td>July 17, 2017</td>
<td>December 7-11, 2017</td>
<td>Pearson VUE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Recertification FAQs

Q: What is the recertification timeline?
A: When you pass your subspecialty certification examination, you are issued a 10-year, time-limited certificate that will expire on December 31 of the tenth year following the date of issuance. During this 10-year period, you must fulfill the UCNS recertification requirements, including passing the recertification examination. For more details, please review the Policy on Recertification located on the UCNS website.

Q: I have a “lifetime” certificate from an ABMS board. Do I have to meet UCNS recertification requirements?
A: Yes. Even though you hold a “lifetime” ABMS certificate, you must meet UCNS recertification requirements. These requirements are outlined in the UCNS Policy on Recertification.

Q: What steps should I take to keep up with recertification requirements?
A: You should begin by participating in CME, 20 percent of which is subspecialty-specific, immediately after becoming certified. CME completed prior to the issue date of your certificate may not be applied toward UCNS recertification.

Q: I am enrolled in an ABMS member board’s recertification program which requires completion of CME. Can those CME hours be used toward the UCNS CME requirement?
A: Yes, but remember that at least 20 percent of the CME submitted for your UCNS recertification requirement must be subspecialty-specific.

Q: I am certified in two UCNS subspecialties. Can my ABMS CME hours be used toward maintaining my certification in both?
A: Yes, so long as you earn at least 20 percent subspecialty-specific hours for each.

Q: I am no longer certified by an ABMS or RCPSC board. Can I still retain my UCNS certification?
A: No. In order to retain UCNS certification, diplomates must continue to be a diplomate in good standing of their primary specialty board under the ABMS or RCPSC.

Q: Are there specific dates for completion of CME?
A: Yes. Diplomates must complete all required CME by December 31 of their tenth year. Diplomates are encouraged to complete all CME by the date of application for their recertification examination.

Q: I let my UCNS certification lapse. Can I still be recertified?
A: Yes, different options are available depending on how much time has passed since expiration of your certificate. If recertification is not completed within four years, your certification lapses permanently. Please refer to the Policy on Recertification for details.

Q: Once I am recertified, when will my new certification expire?
A: After you have met the recertification requirements, including successfully passing the recertification examination, you will be issued a new certificate valid for 10 years. All UCNS certificates, regardless of the exact date of issuance, expire on December 31 of the tenth year after the year of issuance.

Q: If my subspecialty recertification examination is not offered in the tenth year, what are my options?
A: Depending on which year you took your original certification examination, you may find that the examination is not offered in the tenth year. In this case, you will need to take the examination in the ninth year so that your certification does not expire.

Q: If I take the recertification examination early, do I need all CME completed at the time of my application to sit for the examination, or do I have until December 31 of the tenth year?
A: Diplomates will be required to submit any outstanding CME requirements by December 31 of the tenth year. However, we encourage diplomates to complete all required CME by the time of application.

Q: What if I fail my recertification examination? Will I still be certified?
A: You will only remain certified until December 31 of the tenth year after initial certification was received. After December 31 of your tenth year, certification will no longer be valid. Please refer to the Policy on Recertification for details on reinstatement.

New Diplomates

UCNS congratulates new diplomates in Neuro-oncology and Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology. View the complete list of Neuro-oncology diplomates and Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology diplomates.
Accreditation News

Letter from the Accreditation Council Chair

The Accreditation Council is working hard to develop milestones and an outcomes-based review system. At the fall meeting, the Accreditation Council reviewed a proposed process for development of the milestones, which, if approved, will include feedback from the UCNS-accredited program directors. I hope that if you are invited to participate, you will accept and help the Accreditation Council as we work to complete this important project.

In addition to changing how programs are reviewed using milestones and outcomes, UCNS will also be improving the way programs report their information. Beginning in 2016, UCNS will launch an online application system that programs will use to submit provisional applications, reaccreditation applications, progress reports, program change requests, and the new annual report. The application system will keep track of information previously submitted in the application so that programs need only update program submissions with new information and upload appendices. Programs will also be able to submit payment by credit card. We hope that you will find the new submission system valuable and more user-friendly than the current paper-based process. Additional information will be available in future newsletters, on the UCNS website, and emailed to program directors. Please take a moment to ensure that your contact information is current so that you don’t miss any of the important information that soon will be coming your way.

Please join me in celebrating these exciting enhancements to the UCNS accreditation system.

Lori Schuh, MD, FAAN

Program Director Highlight

Horacio Kaufmann, MD, is a professor of neurology and a professor of medicine at New York University where he also holds the Axelrod Chair for Dysautonomia Research and directs the Dysautonomia Center. Dr. Kaufmann received his medical degree from the National University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. After residency training in internal medicine, he completed a neurology residency and fellowship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Q: Why did you choose to practice medicine and go into the field of Autonomic Disorders?
A: From a young age I was fascinated by the function of the body. The brain, of course, controls all the organs of the body through the autonomic nervous system. Specializing in autonomic disorders allowed me to combine both neurology and internal medicine. Autonomic dysfunction occurs in neurodegenerative, autoimmune and neurodevelopmental diseases and I enjoy being able to see a wide range of neurological conditions from the unique perspective of autonomic dysfunction.

Q: Why did you decide to seek UCNS accreditation for your program?
A: UCNS allowed us to create a standardized program, with rigorous training and a common didactic core, which will allow us to train the next generation of autonomic neurologists. Autonomic dysfunction is becoming more recognized in a number of different diseases, it’s important that we have specialists who know how to diagnose and manage patients with autonomic dysfunction - as we can now improve the patients’ quality of life.

Q: If you could hope for a breakthrough in neuroscience this year, what would it be?
A: We now know that patients with a group of diseases called synucleinopathies, which include Parkinson’s disease, may present with autonomic dysfunction as their only clinical feature, in what is called the pre-motor disease stage. This occurs years before the disease affects the brain and impairs the ability to move. Autonomic dysfunction in these patients is the result of involvement of peripheral autonomic nerves by the degenerative process. With tools available to recognize synuclein deposition in the pre-motor stage, the next frontier is to find ways to halt the prion-like spread of alpha-synuclein before it reaches the brain.

For patients with genetic autonomic disorders, like hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathies, we have now pharmacologic agents that can overcome the genetic defect at a molecular level. A fantastic breakthrough will be to rescue the adult phenotype with these compounds.
Continuing Accreditation Applications Sent to Programs

Continuing accreditation applications have been sent to programs due for reaccreditation review in the spring of 2016. Applications are due January 31, 2016. If you have not received your application and believe that you are due for review, please contact Amanda Carpenter at acarpenter@ucns.org.

Submit Program Changes to UCNS

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. Failure to submit change requests in a timely manner may result in an adverse accreditation action.

Apply for UCNS Accreditation by December 1

UCNS is accepting applications until December 1, 2015. Programs approved following this deadline may be accredited as of June 1, 2016. The next deadline for program applications will be June 1, 2016.

UCNS Accredits New Programs

Congratulations to the following programs that were reviewed during the spring 2015 meeting and received accreditation from UCNS effective June 1, 2015. A complete list of UCNS-accredited programs is available at http://www.ucns.org/apps/directory/. Newly accredited programs and fellowship directors are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavioral Neurology &amp; Neuropsychiatry</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Quiceno, MD</td>
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<td>University of Cincinnati Medical Center</td>
<td>Rhonna Shatz, DO</td>
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<th>Headache Medicine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center</td>
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<td>University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>University of California, San Francisco</td>
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<th>Neurocritical Care</th>
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<td>University Hospitals Case Medical Center</td>
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<th>Neural Repair and Rehabilitation</th>
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<td>MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital</td>
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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.
Diplomates Prepare for Recertification
Continued from page 1

The recertification examination is shorter than the initial examination and the fee is lower. Questions are designed for the mid-career practitioner, rather than a recent graduate. Recertification examination applications are due approximately six months prior to the examination date. Recertification examinations are given at the same time as initial certification examinations. View the current schedule.

UCNS has developed an online CME tracker to assist diplomates during the recertification process. Diplomates may quickly and conveniently enter earned CME and generate a report at any time to track their progress in meeting UCNS recertification requirements. The CME tracker also allows diplomates with more than one UCNS subspecialty certification to monitor their progress for each certification. To get started using the CME tracker, users must first register and create a personal log-in. Once the log-in has been approved, diplomates can begin entering their CME activities. Diplomates may use the same CMEs that they use for maintaining their other certification(s), so long as 20 percent of the hours are subspecialty-specific. Required CME has been prorated for diplomates certified prior to 2011. A phase-in timetable specific to each subspecialty is available on the subspecialty’s recertification page.

More information about the recertification process may be found on each subspecialty’s certification page on the UCNS website. The complete policy on recertification is located on the “About” page of the UCNS website under “Policies.” Questions may be directed to Todd Bulson at tbulson@ucns.org or (612) 928-6067.

Questions About UCNS?

Becky Swanson is the UCNS Executive Assistant. Diplomates, applicants, and programs calling with general inquiries will usually start by talking with her. If you have a question you would like answered in this section, email her at bswanson@ucns.org.

Q: I just took my UCNS certification examination. When can I expect to receive my results?
A: We ask that you allow 8-10 weeks for your examination results to be processed. If you have moved since submitting your application, be sure to let us know right away so we send your results to the correct address.

Q: I am working on completing my reaccreditation information form. Do I need to submit new appendices if the information has not changed, or can UCNS reuse appendices from a previous application submission?
A: New appendices must be submitted with each new submission. Templates provided by UCNS must be used where requested.

Staff

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

Subspecialty Recognition Inquiries
John Kohring, Executive Director, (612) 928-6106 jkohring@ucns.org

Certification Inquiries
Todd Bulson, Senior Manager, Certification, (612) 928-6067 tbulson@ucns.org

Accreditation Inquiries
Amanda Carpenter, Senior Manager, Accreditation, (612) 928-6065 acarpenter@ucns.org

General UCNS Inquiries
Becky Swanson, Executive Assistant, (612) 928-6050 bswanson@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.aupjn.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.