

Movement Disorders

UCSF Movement Disorders Fellowship

Training the next generation of leading academic movement disorders clinicians is the goal of our fellowship program at the UCSF Movement Disorders and Neuromodulation Center (MDNC). Along with providing expert clinical care and innovative research, we view education as central to our mission of advancing the understanding and treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) and other movement disorders. A spirit of collaboration is key to achieving these objectives and gives fellows a highly integrated, comprehensive, extraordinarily rich and varied training. From its inception, our program has benefited from partnerships with the San Francisco VA Parkinson's Disease and Research Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC) and our internationally recognized integrated DBS/neurophysiology program (led by Dr. Jill Ostrem and Dr. Philip Starr). In recent years, this spirit of collaboration has expanded to our projects with the UCSF Memory and Aging Center. Dr. Caroline Tanner and others have built a leading research program in PD epidemiology and clinical trials. Our fellows get comprehensive training in design and conduct of clinical research.

Our faculty's dedication to medical education is frequently recognized by our department and university. For 2020-2021, our fellowship director, Dr. Nicholas Galifianakis, was accepted to UCSF's very competitive Teaching Scholars Program (TSP); a year-long program which seeks to train the university's future education leaders. His TSP project is a methodologically rigorous re-design of our fellowship curriculum based on learning theory and evidence-based education science. Over the years, our department has recognized the strength of our fellowship by approving the growth of the program to up to three fellows per year, and by providing Dr. Galifianakis with salary-supported protected time to continue to build and improve it into a leading program. Our two-year program has trained over 30 movement disorders neurology fellows (and 14 functional neurosurgeons) in the last 15 years (see **Where Are They Now?**, below). The most important testament to our successful training of fellows is the success of our graduates. Many are now faculty at leading movement disorders programs, including the University of Florida, Johns Hopkins, Rush, Duke, Emory, Case Western Reserve, Brown, and UCSF.

Fellowship Director

Nicholas B. Galifianakis, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Neurology
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How to Apply

Our fellowship program participates in the national SFMATCH application service for movement disorders fellowships. New application cycles typically begin in March of the PGY-3 year of neurology residency. Applications are due by May, and interviews are conducted for select candidates in June-August, a full year (12-15 months) before the start date of the fellowship. Therefore, interested applicants should apply through new.sfmitch.org in spring of their PGY-3 year, (providing a CV, personal statement and 3 letters of recommendation). Applicants are also welcome to directly contact Dr. Galifianakis (email above) with any questions.

The University of California is an AA/EEO employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply, including minorities and women.

Mentorship/Education

Mentoring strong, future faculty members provides some of the greatest joy to the faculty and is of the highest priority at our center. Our program leaders meet with each fellow every 6 months to discuss overall career guidance, progress, and research endeavors. Dr. Galifianakis additionally reviews formative assessments (milestones-based formal evaluations from all faculty) and performs any necessary coaching/feedback. By mid-year, first-year fellows identify a research mentor who will help with the design and implementation of their own research projects. Monthly meetings with this mentor help guide grant and IRB applications, study conduct, and writing and submission of publications. Finally, each fellow is assigned a "near-peer" junior faculty mentor at the beginning of the fellowship. This mentor serves as an ombudsman and can informally advise them about our program, clinic, center, and institution in general.

Fellows attend and present at a weekly video rounds and weekly fellows conference which includes lectures on rare disorders, neuropathology, neuropsychology, and recent scientific advances. Fellows attend and present at four monthly journal clubs, including those on pivotal clinical trials and the biweekly Starr neurophysiology lab journal club. This regular critical evaluation of the research literature adds to training in statistical and clinical trial methodology and neurophysiology study design. Furthermore, fellows are able to individualize their training through several coursework opportunities including biostatistics, research design, and health professional education courses. Our program also supports fellows to attend the Aspen Movement Disorders course and the annual Movement Disorder Society International Congress.

Clinical Care

Our fellows are immersed in a comprehensive and extraordinarily diverse clinical experience. **Multidisciplinary collaboration** with neurosurgery, behavioral neurology, psychiatry, neuropsychology, and physical therapy is central. The fellows are deeply involved in the entire course of disease management, from early detection of PD through palliative care. Working in one of most experienced **Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)** centers in the world, fellows gain expertise in all aspects of DBS management; from pre-operative candidacy evaluation, to intraoperative physiology, to the use of interventional-MRI (iMRI) technique of implanting DBS electrodes (which was developed at our center), to post-operative programming. All fellows observe a number of DBS surgeries, but can greatly expand this clinical neurosurgical

exposure if this is a major career interest. From the first week, our fellows get hands-on experience in our dystonia center's **botulinum toxin injection clinic**, utilizing EMG and ultrasound guidance. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, our faculty were international leaders in **telemedicine** (several are members of the MDS Telemedicine Study Group and have multiple publications on telemedicine clinical, research and educational applications). Fellows participate in the PD **palliative care** clinics (one of the first developed in North America) with neurologists, palliative care physicians, social work, nursing, and chaplain care. They develop additional independence by managing their own patients **longitudinally for two years** in supervised weekly continuity clinics at the San Francisco VA PADRECC.

Research

Our center has a proven track record of contribution to the fields of neurology and neuroscience. The UCSF MDNC is a Parkinson Study Group site and a super-site for the MJFF-sponsored PPMI study. It has a long history of innovation in DBS/neurophysiology research. We are now (Spring 2021) located in to new Weill Neurosciences Institute, a state-of-the-art, 280,000 sq-foot, clinical and research center dedicated to advancing science and comprehensive care for neurodegenerative and behavioral illnesses. The Department of Neurology at UCSF (now over 200 faculty members) is fully committed to providing an outstanding scientific environment for clinical and translational research. It provides individualized support from the central administrative and other research cores of the department and has a superior record of success in research funding and contributions to neuroscience.

Included in the research conferences describe above, fellows receive several didactic sessions per year on epidemiology, clinical trial design, and statistical analysis by several faculty who have training and advanced degrees in these fields. Fellows also attend and present their research ideas and progress at weekly research meetings on physiology/DBS research, epidemiology/clinical research, and clinical trials development and operations.

Fellows have protected time and are expected to substantially participate in research. Fellows are encouraged to present their own research at professional conferences and are assisted in attendance if their work is accepted. We involve fellows in cutting-edge science to have a relevant, impactful foundation from which to build a career. For example, current fellows are involved in PD neuroprotection clinical trials, PD prodromal and biomarker research, closed-loop stimulation paradigms, and analysis of databases such as Fox Insight and PPMI.

Former Fellows: Where are they now?

Graduation Year, Name, Current Position

2021

Prarthana Prakash, MBBS,

Mai Vuong, MD, Movement Disorders Specialist, Mather VAMC, Sacramento, CA

Amir Badiei, MD, *position pending*

2020

Faiza Butt, MD

University of Assistant Professor

University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

Lauren Spiegel, MD

South Valley Neurology, Morgan Hill & San Jose, CA

Fay Gao, MD

Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii

2019

Melissa Heiry, MD

Assistant Professor of Neurology

Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia , PA

Jennifer Choi, MD

Neurologist

Kaiser Permanente, San Jose, CA

2018

Mitra Afshari, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Rush University, Chicago, IL

Ethan Brown, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Kyle Mitchell, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Duke University, Durham, NC

Jessica Weinstein, MD
Neurologist
Kaiser Permanente, Antioch, CA

2017

Nijee Luthra, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Cameron Dietiker, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
UCSF, San Francisco, CA

2016

Svjetlana Miocinovic, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Jennifer Chen, MD
Sleep and Movement Disorders Specialist
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Rutgers Health, New Brunswick, NJ

Erica Byrd, MD
Movement Disorders Specialist
Sutter Neuroscience Institute, Roseville, CA

2015

Melanie Lising, MD
Movement Disorders Specialist
Marin Health, Sausalito, CA

Robert R. Coleman, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Michigan State University, Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI

2014

Kelly Mills, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Director, Neuromodulation and Advanced Therapeutics Clinic
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

2013

Maya Katz, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

2012

Camilla Kilbane, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Director, Movement Disorders Fellowship
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

2011

Jennifer L. Witt, MD
Movement Disorders Specialist
Evergreen Health, Kirkland, WA

2010

Adolfo Ramirez-Zamora, MD
Associate Professor of Neurology
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Rima Ash, MD
Movement Disorders Specialist,
Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco, CA

2009

Nicholas B. Galifianakis, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Neurology
Director, Movement Disorders Fellowship
UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Lauren Schrock, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Director, Movement Disorders Fellowship
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

2006

Suketu Khandhar, MD
Director, Surgical treatments of PD
Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento, CA

2003

Anthony Mosley, MD
Movement Disorders Specialist
The Parkinson's Institute, Sunnyvale, CA

Current Fellows

Graduation Year, Name, Neurology Residency

2022, Meredith Bock, MD, UCSF

2022, Lauren Hammer, MD, PhD, Harvard-Mass General Brigham

2022, Katherine Wong, MD, UCSF

Beginning Fellowship July 2021

2023, Andrea Fuentes, MD, University of Pennsylvania

2023, Hengameh Zahed Kargar, MD, PhD, UCSF

Contact Us
UCSF Main Site

Source URL: <https://neuroeducation.ucsf.edu/movement-disorders>

Links

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