



## Education at URMCC – Program Features

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**Program:** Neurology Residency Program

**Program Director:** Ralph F. Jozefowicz

**Program Coordinator:** Clara J. Vigelette

**Current Residents:** 22

**Current Faculty Members:** 95

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### About the Program

The University of Rochester Neurology Residency Training Program emphasizes excellence in clinical neurology and has produced academic neurologists, practitioners of neurology, researchers, and teachers. The residency training schedule is designed for flexibility. After the first year of basic clinical neurology, every effort is made to accommodate the request of each resident for elective rotations that are chosen in concert with individualized career goals.

Substantial elective time is provided in both the second and third years of training. Clinical teaching is provided by full-time academic clinical neurologists who are actively engaged in the practice of clinical neurology throughout the year. In addition, special arrangements can be made for those residents wishing to initiate research activities in their second year.

## **Our Facilities/Outpatient Clinics**

Residents are based primarily at the University of Rochester's teaching site, Strong Memorial Hospital. Strong Memorial Hospital is a 739-bed care center that provides a comprehensive range of general and highly specialized services. Strong Memorial provides care to 39,000 inpatients and 1,300,000 outpatients, annually.

Neurology Inpatient Unit: (5-1600) This unit consists of 24 beds, although neurology patients can be admitted to any of the acute care beds in the hospital. Approximately 1,417 neurology patients are admitted to 5-1600 each year with an occupancy rate that averages over 100%. Patients represent a broad spectrum of acute and chronic neurological disorders, and come from the emergency department, practices of staff neurologists, referrals from other physicians, the Neurology clinic, the intensive care unit and other hospital units. There are three clinical services on the Neurology inpatient unit: stroke, epilepsy and general neurology.

The Neurology inpatient Unit is adjacent to a 24 bed neurosurgery inpatient unit with incorporated neurological/neurosurgical step-down beds.

Neurology Ambulatory Facility: Neurology outpatients are seen in the Ambulatory Care Facility located adjacent to the parking garage. This neurology ambulatory clinic is approximately 7,000 square feet in size and consists of 16 exam rooms, 5 procedure rooms, 1 Infusion Center with 4 chairs, 1 conference room and a staffing room. Additionally, EMG/Nerve Conduction Studies, Evoked Potential Testing, EEG and Neurovascular laboratory facilities are located in this area.

Additional outpatient facilities are dedicated to clinical trials, and are housed within the nearby clinical trial coordination center, which is awaiting a move in 2010 to a new building dedicated to clinical and translation research.

Neurology Westfall Road Clinic: Six divisions of Neurology see patients at this outpatient facility, including the General Neurology Unit, Epilepsy Unit, Movement Disorders, Behavioral Neurology, Neuromuscular Diseases and Child Neurology. Routine EEGs, 24 hour ambulatory EEGs, evoked potentials, neuropsychological testing, botulinum toxin injections, and EMGs are also performed in this facility. The clinical area has 12 exam rooms, 2 procedure rooms, 5 offices for the research nursing staff, and 2 rooms for social work. There are also 3 EEG rooms, 1 shared room for evoked potential testing and a 24 hour EEG room.

**Highland Hospital:** Highland Hospital is a 261-bed, full service hospital established in 1889. It became part of the University of Rochester Medical Center in 1997, and has developed centers of excellence in geriatric medicine, women's health, obstetrics, bariatric surgery, and joint replacement surgery. The URM Department of Neurology began providing full consultative neurological services at Highland Hospital in 2004. Highland Hospital is a New York State designated Stroke Center and the neurology service attends on patients who present with acute stroke and are treated with t-PA during their 24 hours in the ICU.

The goal of the Highland Hospital resident rotation is to use Highland's "community hospital" atmosphere to simulate the consultative feel of the private general neurology practice environment in which most neurologists work. The neurology resident also gains experience supervising and teaching medical students, as well as interacting with residents from other services, in particular Internal Medicine and Family Practice.

The Highland Hospital Department of Neurology has an office that includes work space and full computer access for both residents and medical students.

**Rochester General Hospital:** The Rochester General Hospital is a voluntary not-for-profit general community hospital where most patients are admitted to the hospitalist service. It is a high volume patient care facility with 77,116 ED visits and 28,639 hospital discharges. Multiple specialty care is provided with 16,554 inpatient surgeries and 5,437 ambulatory surgeries performed in 2003. The Rochester Heart Institute is affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic with 962 cardiac surgeries and 2,637 interventional catheterizations (not counting electrophysiologic interventions). The Cancer Center is affiliated with Roswell Park and 1,670 new cancer diagnoses were made at the RGH. There were 19,230 medical treatments (1,116 new) and 13,041 radiation treatments (1,006 new). 203 patients receive regular hemodialysis and 3,581 inpatient treatments were administered. Chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (60) is also provided.

The hospital has 528 beds of which 40 are critical care beds (16 MICU, 12 SICU, and 12 CTICU). There are in addition 8 progressive pulmonary care beds and a 26-bed acute chest pain monitoring unit. Monitored beds are available on all medical floors.

The Neurology Department functions as consultation only and all neurology patients are admitted to medical service beds. The Neurology inpatient service is primarily a consultation service but the adult neurologists manage much of the neurologic disease and see all patients with cerebrovascular disease. Rochester General Hospital also has a 23 bed acute stroke care unit with protocols, monitors, and telemetry.

Outpatient care is provided in a Department of Medicine faculty practice area with 3 examining rooms available for neurology patients. All patients are available for teaching purposes and residents work up the majority of patients.

## Curriculum

The Adult Neurology Residency Program at the University of Rochester is a four-year categorical program in neurology that includes a preliminary (PGY-1) year of internal medicine training. This preliminary year is supervised by both the neurology and internal medicine program directors. The core curriculum of the first year is identical to that of the First Year Categorical Medicine residents.

Please review our website for an overview of program goals and philosophy and an outline of our curriculum and teaching schedule: <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate-medical-education/prospective-residents/neurology/program-details/curriculum/>

## Faculty and Research

The Department now has over 140 faculty. This includes 95 full-time academic faculty, 37 faculty in other departments with secondary appointments in neurology, and 16 faculty at other institutions with adjunct appointments in neurology.

The Department of Neurology has a strong tradition of both basic and clinical research. Many internationally recognized clinician-researchers are members of the faculty. The Department consistently ranks as one of the top five neurology departments in the United States for extramural research funding from the National Institutes of Health.

In 2011 Academic Year, extramural research support totaled \$31.3 million, and the department has consistently ranked within the top 6 nationally in NIH research funding. Yet rather than rest on its laurels, the department is again aggressively expanding further, with an aggressive program of recruitment anticipated over the next 5 years, as part of the University of Rochester's strategic plan for 2009-13.

## Research Overview

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The philosophy of the [Department of Neurology](#) is that research should be part of each resident's educational experience. Accordingly, each resident is required to complete a clinical or basic science research project during their residency, culminating in a Neurology Grand Rounds presentation and an abstract submission to the American Academy of Neurology or the American Neurological Association for presentation at their annual meetings. A faculty mentor is assigned to each resident for this experience.

Research opportunities are also available in the laboratories of basic scientists working on neural regeneration and plasticity, neural development, nervous system aging, neurotransmitter and receptor identification, and neural transplantation.

## What makes us Unique?

The University of Rochester is considered one of the top and one of the most attractive Neurology residency programs in the nation. The following points contribute to this reputation:

- The breadth and depth of the faculty, including many internationally recognized teacher-clinicians and clinician-researchers.
- Consistently ranking as one of the top five neurology departments in the United States for extramural research funding from the National Institutes of Health.
- The Department serves as the coordination center for many large multicenter therapeutic trials in neurology.
- The wide spectrum of neurological disorders seen, encompassing a tertiary care teaching hospital and two care community hospitals.
- Superb teaching by full-time academic clinicians.
- 100% first-time resident pass rates for the Neurology Board examinations for the past 15 years.
- A close-knit, friendly, "family" atmosphere among faculty and residents.
- Very reasonable hospital "night call" responsibilities for residents, including a night float to cover overnight calls.
- Significant longitudinal and block ambulatory neurology experience in all three years of the residency, including a resident clinic, a faculty practice group, and subspecialty clinics.
- The large amount of elective time available, allowing residents to develop very individualized educational programs.
- A fully integrated PGY-1 year in the Strong Memorial Hospital Internal Medicine Program, with a longitudinal outpatient experience in the Neurology Resident Clinic.
- The presence of Internal Medicine interns on the inpatient Neurology Service at Strong Memorial Hospital to lessen routine patient care burdens and provide teaching opportunities.
- The affordable and high-quality lifestyle provided by the City of Rochester and surrounding suburbs.