

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Faculty

Kanakadurga R. Poduri, M.D.

Chair, Medical Director and Director of Residency Program Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation



Dr. Poduri is an Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She graduated from Karnatak Medical College in Hubli, India. She completed her residency training in PM&R and a fellowship in Geriatric Rehabilitation at the University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital. She is Board-certified in PM&R, Pain Medicine and in the subspecialty of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. Dr. Poduri was included in *Top Doctors USA*. In addition to her clinical responsibilities and resident education, she teaches students (second, third and fourth year) in the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She has presented several papers at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Association of Academic Physiatrists, National Stroke Association, and the American Geriatric Society. Dr. Poduri has also presented internationally on the topics of shoulder pain in stroke patients and spinal cord injury. Her research interests are in the areas of stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputations, hypertension and DVT. Dr. Poduri is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation* and reviewer for the *Journal of Neurology*, *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, and the *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*.

Uma Aggarwal, M.B.B.S.

Associate Professor of Clinical Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation



Dr. Aggarwal received her medical degree from the Government Medical College in Patiala, Punjab India. She completed residency training in PM&R at the University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital, and is Board-certified in both PM&R and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. She received the Elkin's Award from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for the highest score on the written Board Examination. She is the Medical Director of PM&R at Rochester General Hospital. She has been a Guest Oral Examiner for The American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Aggarwal is also a Business Associate of the Preferred Care Surgical Advisory Team. Her interests are in the areas of Stroke Rehabilitation and Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

Mary Dombovy, M.D., MHSA

Clinical Associate Professor, PM&R and Neurology



Dr. Dombovy received her medical degree from Mayo Medical School College of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota. She completed her Neurology residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, and PM&R residency at the University of Wisconsin. She is Board-certified in both PM&R and Neurology. She completed a fellowship in Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine and received her Master's Degree in Health Systems Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Dombovy's major areas of clinical and research interest are in recovery from stroke and brain injury, healthcare service delivery, and designing medical education to impact on the future of health care.

Clifford Everett, M.D.

Associate Professor



Dr. Everett is a Board-certified Physiatrist who received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He completed his internship in Preliminary Internal Medicine and his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Everett is a guest oral examiner for the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. His areas of specialty include treating lumbar radiculopathy and spinal stenosis with specific rehabilitation and interventional techniques. His major interest is in musculoskeletal medicine.

Donna Ferrero, M.D.

Assistant Professor



Dr. Ferrero is a Board-certified Physiatrist who received her medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in Buffalo, New York. She completed her PM&R residency training at Tuft's University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Ferrero's practice is mainly in the outpatient area. She specializes in the non-surgical treatment of spine disorders, specifically neck and back pain. She helps to maximize a patient's function by restoring quality of life through a variety of treatments including medication, physical therapy, and spinal injections.

Douglas Fetkenhour, M.D.

Assistant Professor



Dr. Fetkenhour is a Board-certified Physiatrist who received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania. He completed his internship training year at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and his PM&R residency at State University of New York Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York. He serves on the Curriculum

Committee for third and fourth year medical students at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. His interests are inpatient rehabilitation and the management of spasticity in pediatric patients.

Nandini Joshi, M.D.

Clinical Instructor



Dr. Joshi attended two years of pre-professional training, and four years of medical school at Pune University, India, receiving her medical degree. She completed her residency in PM&R at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and is PM&R Board-certified. She worked as a staff-physiatrist at Batavia VAMC, and then joined the Park Ridge Health System where she held both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation responsibilities. She now works part time for both the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and the University of Rochester Medical Center. Her rehabilitation interests are in the areas of amputations and chronic musculoskeletal problems in veterans.

Mark LiVecchi, D.M.D., M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor



Dr. LiVecchi received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Brooklyn College of Medicine, and his Doctorate of Dentistry from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. He completed his intern year of residency at Highland Hospital, and his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. LiVecchi is Board-certified in PM&R and Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. Prior to joining Unity Health System, Dr. LiVecchi was Medical Director of the Acute Rehabilitation Unit at Geneva General Hospital in Geneva, New York. He is a retired medical officer in the New York Air National Guard, where he served as officer in charge of physical examinations and standards. Dr. LiVecchi specializes in Neurologic Rehabilitation.

Sridevi Mukkamala, M.B.B.S.

Clinical Instructor



Dr. Mukkamala received her medical degree from Andhra Medical College in India. She completed her transitional year of residency at Hurley Medical Center/Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She completed her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at Metro Health Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and a fellowship in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Medical College of Wisconsin/Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Mukkamala is Board-certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine, Independent Medical Evaluation and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. She specializes in general rehabilitation, neuro-rehabilitation, spinal cord injury rehabilitation, spasticity management, electrodiagnostic testing, musculoskeletal conditions and independent medical evaluations.

Nithyanandini Namassivaya, M.B.B.S.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Namassivaya received her medical degree from Bangalore Medical College in India. She completed a transitional year at the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens, and her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She is board certified in both Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. She is the Director of the Prosthetic Clinic at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Her areas of interest are inpatient rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, stroke, spasticity management and prosthetics/orthotics.



Jean L. Nickels, M.D.

Associate Professor of Clinical Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dr. Nickels is a Board-certified Physiatrist who received her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and completed a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She worked as an attending physician at Monroe Community Hospital Acute Rehabilitation Unit and performed nerve conduction studies and electromyography at Jones Memorial Hospital. Dr. Nickels is currently an Attending Physiatrist at Rochester General Hospital's Acute Rehabilitation Unit. Her clinical interests are in the areas of stroke, geriatric inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient pain management.



Rajeev Patel, M.D.

Associate Professor

Dr. Patel completed his undergraduate and medical school training in Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine. He completed an internship year in Internal Medicine at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco, CA. Dr. Patel completed his PM&R residency training at Baylor College of Medicine and The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research at the Texas Medical Center. He further developed his expertise by completing a sub-specialty fellowship focusing on Interventional Spine at the Penn Spine Center of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Patel's practice is mainly interventional Physiatry. His areas of interest are severe degenerative disc disease, nerve impingement (sciatica or radiculopathy), herniated discs, spondylolisthesis and spinal stenosis.



Cecilia Ransom, M.D.

Clinical Instructor

Dr. Ransom is a Board-certified Physiatrist who completed her medical school and PM&R residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. She is a Staff Physiatrist at Unity Health System, where she specializes in traumatic brain injury, stroke rehabilitation, neuromusculoskeletal disorders and electrodiagnostic testing.



Marcia J. Scherer, Ph.D., MPH, CRC

Adjunct Professor

Dr. Scherer received her doctorate from the University of Rochester in the areas of Counseling, Family and Worklife Studies. She has a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She is the Director for the Institute for Matching Person and Technology. She is also the Sr. Research Associate for the International Center for Hearing and Speech Research (a joint program of the University of Rochester and National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology). Dr. Scherer is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in Rehabilitation Psychology, Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology and in Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics. She is also a Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Disability and Rehabilitation*, official journal of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.



William Schneider, Ph.D.

Clinical Instructor

Dr. Schneider received his Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology from the Rosemead School of Psychology in California. He completed an internship at Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a fellowship in Rehabilitation and Neuropsychology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr. Schneider is a Neuropsychologist for the Unity Acute Rehabilitation & Brain Injury Program. He has special expertise in pediatric neuropsychological assessment and pediatric brain injury. Dr. Schneider's clinical interests include rehabilitation neuropsychology, behavioral management of the brain injured, and psychopharmacological treatment in traumatic brain injury.



David Speech, M.D.

Associate Professor

Dr. Speech completed his medical degree at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center. Following an internship year in Transitional Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York, Dr. Speech served as a general medical officer and a brigade surgeon for the 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, NY. He completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Speech is Board-certified in PM&R and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Dr. Speech provides nonsurgical evaluation and management of spinal pain. He has additional interests and expertise in the performance of electrodiagnostic studies to assess for peripheral nerve injury, cervical and lumbar radiculopathy and the performance of disability determinations.



Miriam Weber, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Weber received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York at Albany. She completed her internship in Clinical Neuropsychology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois and her post-doctoral fellowship in Neuropsychology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Her clinical interests are in post-stroke cognitive recovery and the evaluation and management of cognitive impairments in neurological disease. Her research interests are in cognition, mood, and hormones in the menopausal transition.



Tony M. Wong, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Dr. Wong received his doctorate from the University of Southern California, and completed his postgraduate training in Clinical Psychology at the Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University. He was a post-doctoral fellow in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is also board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology as a Clinical Neuropsychologist. Dr. Wong is the Director of Neuropsychology for Unity Health System. His research and clinical emphases include mild head injury/post concussive syndrome, sports-related concussion, brain injury, neuropsychological assessment, and cross-cultural factors in neuropsychological assessment and intervention.

