MAY 2026

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY MOMENTS

News and Updates from the University of Washington
Department of Neurological Surgery

Message from the Chair

RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD

This issue of Neurological Surgery Moments reflects the extraordinary momentum, culture, and community within our department. Thank you! We are delighted to welcome an outstanding new class of four R-1 residents, from Baltimore, Denver, NYC, and Seattle. Anne, Chi, Denis, and Tom boast diverse backgrounds, complete with scholarly excellence, and a commitment to service in their communities. They are truly impressive people and represent the promising future of our field. We also celebrate meaningful milestones achievements across our department. We announce new family joys, welcoming Maeve, Maggie and Quinn McGrath's second child. We are thrilled to watch the growing national and international recognition of our faculty, residents, and researchers through prestigious awards, invited lectureships, and competitive grants. Our legendary Nancy Temkin is deservedly the recipient of a lifetime achievement award, juxtaposed with our young powerhouse Stephanie Chen who was selected as the winner of the CNS Foundation's Future Women Leaders Scholarship. Sam Browd, the inventor, earned the honor of delivering the prestigious Theodore Kurze lecture at the AANS highlighting his innovative spirit and creativity. Our rising star, Adriel Barrios-Anderson, is a 2026-2027 awardee for an NREF research fellowship. We recognize a fabulous and inspirational mentor, Ali Sadeghi, PhD who was awarded this year's UW Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. Finally, we are proud to spotlight the lasting impact of the educational programs we created together such as our NIH Summer Program, exemplified by the journey of Madeline Bradbury, an alumna, whose experiences at UW continue to shape her path towards medicine. Together, these stories underscore our shared dedication to neuroscience, mentorship, innovation, and service to our patients and communities, near and far.

This issue:

Meet our New Residents

Thanks to the diligent, thoughtful work our faculty, residents, and staff have done to help attract the best and brightest residents to our department, we have matched with another impressive set of top candidates who will undoubtedly shape the field of neurological surgery and become excellent surgeon-scientists.

Chiagoziem Anigbogu was born in Enugu, Nigeria, and immigrated to the United States at age five, growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated cum laude from Macalester College in 2021 with a B.A. in Religious Studies and Biology, where he competed in NCAA soccer and track and field and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his M.D. from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 2026 and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha. During medical school, he completed a year-long research fellowship under the mentorship of Daniel Kramer and John Thompson, focusing on intraoperative electrophysiology and data-driven modeling to better understand and optimize neuromodulation therapies, including deep brain stimulation. His clinical and research interests center on treating neurological disorders through neuromodulation, particularly in movement disorders and epilepsy. Outside of medicine, he enjoys cooking, trail running, soccer, photography, and spending time with friends and family. His faith plays an important role in shaping his commitment to serving others.

Thomas “Tom” Hanks was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, and moved to Anchorage, Alaska, prior to high school. He later attended Arizona State University in Tempe, earning a degree in exercise science before matriculating to the University of Washington School of Medicine as part of the Alaska WWAMI cohort. During medical school, Tom conducted clinical outcomes research with the Virginia Mason Department of Neurosciences and Spine and the University of Washington Department of Neurological Surgery. He also completed a dedicated research year in the laboratory of Dr. Manuel Ferreira, Jr., focusing on translational genomics in chordoma. Additionally, he worked with Dr. Marc R. Mayberg on the development of a novel device for repairing cerebrospinal fluid leaks in endoscopic spine surgery. Outside of medicine, Tom enjoys weightlifting, running, snowboarding, hiking, and grilling for friends and family.

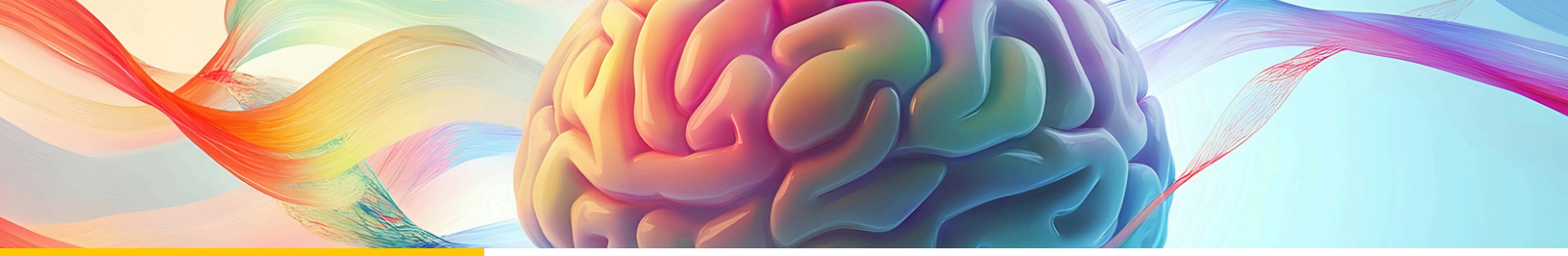
Meet our New Residents - cont'd

Anne Lally was born and raised in South Jersey. She received her BA in anthropology and biology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She then attended Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, where she was heavily involved in the student-run ECHO Free Clinic for uninsured New Yorkers and was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and awarded the Dean's recognition award. She completed a funded research year with Dr. Vijay Agarwal at the Montefiore Skull Base Center, focusing on skull base neurosurgery and neuro-oncology outcomes. Outside of neurosurgery, she enjoys running marathons, exploring coffee shops, spending time at the beach, thrifting, and rooting for Philadelphia sports teams.

Denis Routkevitch completed his MD/PhD at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where his doctoral work in biomedical engineering focused on ultrasound monitoring of spinal cord perfusion. Working with Nicholas Theodore, MD, and Nitish Thakor, PhD, he developed a system for closed-loop vasopressor titration for individualized MAP management in acute SCI, published in Nature Biomedical Engineering. For his graduate work, he was recognized as a 2025 Siebel Scholar. Throughout his PhD, he mentored trainees at every level, from high school students through doctoral candidates and medical students. At UW, he plans to continue translational research that can be applied in the operating room and in the neuro ICU, drawing on his training in both biomedical engineering and neurosurgery. He grew up in Colorado and in his free time can be found skiing, climbing, hiking, riding his bike, or doing yoga.

NEW BABY!

Chief Resident Maggie McGrath and her husband Quinn welcomed daughter Maeve Margaret into the world on February 6th (same date as her big brother!) Maeve arrived weighing in at 8lbs 9oz and measuring 21.5 in.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Stephanie H. Chen, MD has been selected as the winner of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Foundation's 2026 Future Women Leaders Scholarship Award.

The award includes her membership in The CNS Leadership Institute's 2026 cohort, a 12-month leadership program designed to empower neurosurgeons with the practical skills and business acumen needed to engage hospital administrators and lead multidisciplinary teams. Dr. Chen will also attend the CNS meeting in Washington, DC at the end of October.

Nancy Temkin, PhD Named Inaugural Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Temkin who is the inaugural recipient of the International Conference for Post Traumatic Epilepsy's Lifetime Achievement Award. The International Conference on Post Traumatic Epilepsy (IC-PTE) is traditionally held every other year. Alternating between North America and Europe, IC-PTE brings together leading clinical and preclinical experts in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and epilepsy to focus on post-traumatic epilepsy (PTE) with the goal of determining an actionable plan to design clinical trials aimed at developing preventative therapies and treatments for PTE. This year's meeting will take place in Princeton, New Jersey from May 3rd to May 6th.

Sam Browd, MD PhD to give Theodore Kurze Lecture

Dr. Sam Browd will give the Theodore Kurze Lecture on Saturday, May 2nd at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting. The Theodore Kurze Lectureship established in 2002 is a prestigious, invited keynote address which highlights pioneering work, often bridging advanced neuroscience, clinical innovation, and technological advancements like brain-machine interfaces or microsurgical innovations. Dr. Kurze was a pioneer in neurosurgery who radically altered the practice of neurosurgery with the introduction of the microscope in 1950 to brain surgery.

Ali Sadeghi, PhD Receives Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

Each year, the Office of Undergraduate Research invites students presenting at the Undergraduate Research Symposium to nominate their mentor for the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. From these nominations, a committee selects a small group of awardees to recognize at the Symposium. We are delighted to share that Dr. Ali Sadeghi was chosen from 305 nominations to receive this year's Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

UW vice provost for research, Mari Ostendorf, will offer a personal acknowledgment of his excellent mentorship at an award reception on May 15th. Provost Serio, President Jones, and Dean Ed Taylor will also be in attendance to offer congratulations.

Ali earned his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran and worked in the field of tissue engineering mostly focusing on neural regeneration. He developed conductive nanofibrous scaffolds to modulate neural cell behavior and promote regeneration in combination with in vitro electrical stimulation. Dr. Sadeghi has extensive experience with the design and fabrication of bioengineering tools such as biomaterial and bio-scaffolds for tissue engineering and controlled release targeted drug delivery. In his current role as a Postdoctoral Scholar and Weill Neurohub Fellow in Dr. Christoph Hofstetter's lab, he is expanding his knowledge and experiences to the in vivo model by developing closed-loop stimulation in rats with spinal cord injury (SCI) to provide functional recovery after SCI.

We are excited to announce that PGY-4 Resident Adriel Barrios-Anderson, MD has been selected as the awardee for the 2026-27 NREF & AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Research Fellowship Grant in the amount of 40,000! His project, "Genomic analysis of mosaic variants and epigenetic features in drug-resistant focal epilepsy using tissue from stereo-EEG electrodes" was deemed both impressive and promising by the selection committee.

SPOTLIGHT: Summer Program Alumna Madeline Bradbury

I applied to NSSP in 2024, hoping it would expose me to advanced medical specialties I didn't have access to in rural communities. NSSP exceeded all of my expectations. This program allowed me to explore specialties, research, medical procedures, and career paths I didn't know existed.

Through NSSP, I witnessed the impact of medicine from Deep Brain stimulation and hemispherectomies to research that will change the lives of future patients. During this program, I found a new love of medicine.

My time in Seattle left me with questions that still nag at me today. Given all these resources, how does distance from definitive care affect patients? When I sat in on Dr. Bay's lecture on strokes, we discussed how time to treatment influences patient outcomes, and I saw how delayed care leads to worse long-term deficits.

In my small hometown, the nearest fully capable stroke and trauma centers are an hour away; outcomes are significantly impacted by those delays. The barriers created by distance and time become critical challenges for rural patients, directly affecting their recovery. After leaving Seattle, I returned home more determined to understand and address the obstacles to rural care for critical patients.

Since graduating from UMW, I have been volunteering with South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue as an EMT. My local fire department services a 255-square-mile area with 9 fire stations, 2 of which are staffed 24/7 with a combination of full-time staff and volunteers. In my training days, there was a page for a possible stroke. The time to the patient was 10-15 minutes. Understanding the severity of the situation, the crews quickly activated Lifeflight. Upon arrival, the patient was FAST-positive with a LAMS of 5. From the time EMS arrived to the CT scanner, it was 57 minutes. The distance from the patient's residence to the same stroke facility by car was easily 90 + minutes. Even with the significant distance to a stroke facility, the EMS response and LifeFlight crews gave this patient the best possible opportunity for treatment and recovery.

Learning about stroke types and treatments through NSSP and then applying my knowledge to working with rural patients in the field has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. Coming from a rural community, it is particularly meaningful to have the opportunity to positively impact rural patient outcomes.

In my gap year, I have also been working as an ER tech at a local critical access hospital. My goal was to gain experience in both pre-hospital and hospital settings to deepen my understanding of rural healthcare. After leaving NSSP and witnessing the collaborative, intense, passionate UW environment, I knew I wanted to attend the University of Washington School of Medicine. I am thrilled to share that I have been accepted to the UWSOM Spokane campus and will be starting school in July 2026. NSSP profoundly shaped my journey, igniting a drive I will carry throughout my career. I look forward to returning to Seattle as a medical student on my clinical rotations, ready to give back to the community that inspired me. Thank you so much to everyone who made my NSSP experience possible. Go Dawgs!