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NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY MOMENTS

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

Message from the Chair

RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD

It is Spring! For us, it is a rebirth! In this season's newsletter we celebrate our new resident recruits. Our match resulted in a spectacular team of future surgeon scientists. Our faculty continue to bring great local and national acclaim to their accomplishments. We celebrate a new Professorship recipient, a new Chair holder, and a new Director for the ABNS. Please read about our uplifting news.



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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, for yet another year, we have matched our top candidates. We will have four very impressive future neurological surgeons joining us at the end of June. Three of these future neurological surgeons were sub-interns in our department and one was discovered during the interview process. Our next class of R-1 residents is truly promising!

Malek Bashti will graduate from the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Prior to medical school, he represented UCSD for four years as a member of the NCAA men's soccer team. As co-captain in his junior and senior years, he led the team to the Final Four of the national championship for the first time in school history. After graduating, he made his debut as a semi-professional soccer player, the culmination of his lifelong dedication to the sport. Also, while at UCSD Malek worked at a rural hospital in Kenya where he gained valuable experience in practicing medicine in a resource-limited country. Further, he has a diverse research background, having worked in a CAR T-cell lab at Stanford University, leading to publications in Nature, Science, and Cancer Cell. While at Miami, Malek has grown his research portfolio with a wide range of topics studied in great depth. He refined invaluable microsurgical techniques through the study of stroke on murine models of Alzheimer's disease, led a bioengineering team to develop a novel wearable accelerometer for monitoring peri-operative gait changes, and contributed to 20+ published clinical research manuscripts, with many more in the pipeline. The primary focus of Malek's neurosurgical research interests is peri-operative outcomes. His passion for this area inspired him to start Algia LLC, where his team is developing an application to characterize the evolution of peri-operative symptoms.



Meredith Costello will also graduate from the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. An avid athlete, as an undergraduate at the University of Miami Meredith was a member of the women's Division I rowing team. As a part of this team, she went on to receive multiple University of Miami and Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) honors and awards. Throughout her time in medical school, Meredith has been involved in the Neurosurgery Student Interest Group (NSIG) as a leader on the executive board and mentor to younger students. The mission of the University of Miami Chapter of NSIG is to expose medical students to the field of neurosurgery as well as foster the professional growth of students aiming to pursue a career neurosurgery. Meredith has had significant and longitudinal leadership with this group serving previously as the education coordinator and vice president and now elected by her peers to serve as president for the upcoming year. Meredith strives to continue to grow the chapter and foster mentorship between the department and the chapter as well as between the older and younger medical students. Meredith is an aspiring researcher dedicated to studying various aspects of neurosurgery both clinically and in a traditional lab setting. Throughout medical school, she has published research in multiple neurosurgical subspecialty areas including neuro-oncology, skull base, vascular, and peripheral nerve. Currently Meredith has over twenty publications to her name and continues to maintain productivity within her research groups focusing on longitudinal projects.



MEET OUR NEW RESIDENTS - cont'd



Anthony Maxin will graduate from Creighton University School of Medicine. At Creighton he has received numerous scholarships and awards including the Arthur Laughlin and Esther Johnson Barr Scholarship 2023 Merit-based scholarship for academic achievement, multiple Medical Student Research Travel Awards and the Medical Dean's Magis Scholarship for achievement in leadership or community service. Prior to medical school he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at the University of Washington. Anthony was an excellent sub-intern on our service. He demonstrated an

extensive fund of neurosurgical knowledge as well as intelligence, focus, attention to detail, diligence and professionalism. In regard to research, Anthony has an incredible work ethic and productivity to show for it. Anthony has written and submitted several R43 grants and Department of Defense grants including to the Combat Readiness Medical Research Program and Traumatic Brain Injury Psychological Health Research Program. Anthony has had two fully funded grants: the Astral Codex Ten (ACX) technology industry grant on which he is Co-principal investigator with former resident Dr. Lynn McGrath and the University of Washington Population Health Initiative Healthcare AI Award on which he is Co-investigator with Principal Investigator Dr. Michael Levitt. Further Anthony is a co-inventor with Dr. Lynn McGrath on patent application "Pupillary Curve Morphology and Diagnosis Management" which was filed in November 2023. Anthony has ten well-focused publications, many as first author, and centered on this technology and its integration into neurosurgery in addition to multiple additional studies under review, and twenty-three podium presentations and abstracts at national meetings.

Logan Muzyka joins us from the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. Prior to medical school, Logan attended Trinity University in San Antonio where she graduated with a degree in neuroscience and English. While an undergraduate, Logan co-founded and directed TigerThon, an annual fundraising campaign for The Children's Hospital of San Antonio. Under her leadership, fundraising efforts grew from just over \$6,000 in her first year to over \$25,000 by her senior year. During her third year of medical school, she spent a year conducting research at MGH under Dr. Cahill, optimizing the sensitivity of IDH mutant astrocytomas to radiation therapy where she designed and performed experiments using IDH and CDK 4/6 inhibition in combination with radiation on patient-derived cells, assessing viability via Cell-Titer Glo, cell cycle via flow cytometry, and protein expression via Western blot. This work earned her the Distinction in Research and resulted in over a dozen publications in peer reviewed journals, plus multiple abstracts and posters. Because Logan missed doing regular community service work while in medical school, she sought out the opportunity to collaborate with the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation. She began as a facilitator for a friends and family support group and later helped lead the survivorship group. She also led sessions to educate and mentor survivors and their families on the pursuit of careers in healthcare. In addition to being an amazing self-starter, Logan is a trained dancer and competed at a pre-professional level throughout junior high and high school. In college, she expanded her repertoire by joining hip hop, bhangra, and Bollywood crews and choreographing pieces for the annual professional showcase, Momentum. During her research year in Boston, she performed with a hip hop dance crew under Zay Beasley, participating in local shows and master classes.



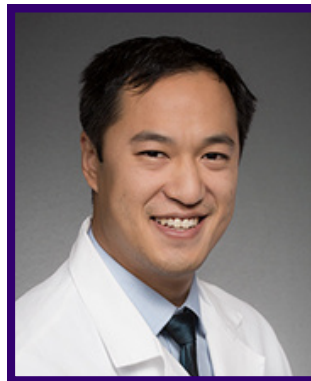
ABNS UPDATE



Congratulations to Dr. Louis J. Kim who was chosen as Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) as of June 1, 2025, a prestigious and important role he will serve for 6 years.

He was chosen for his exceptional expertise, knowledge, leadership, and dedication to advancing the field of neurological surgery. He will help further the mission of the ABNS by adding his wisdom and high standards in helping certify candidates seeking ABNS certification.

NEW TITLE FOR ANDREW KO, MD



Dr. Andrew Ko is now Chief of Neurological Surgery and Neurosurgery Medical Director at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). Dr. Ko earned his BA in philosophy from Dartmouth College in 2000 and his MD from the University of Illinois in 2005. He then performed his neurological surgery residency at the University of Washington followed by a fellowship in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery at Oregon Health and Science University. He was appointed Assistant Professor in the UW Department of Neurological Surgery in July 2014 and promoted to Associate Professor in July 2020. Dr. Ko serves as Associate Residency Program Director and is the Roy and Maxine Johnson Endowed Professor in Epilepsy.

It is important to note that Dr. Manuel Ferreira successfully held this role for eleven years and is recognized for leading so many exciting changes in our department including the integration with Northwest Hospital in 2019 and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in 2022. He has helped oversee the exponential growth of our tumor, pituitary, and spine programs at UWMC and he is an amazing surgeon, educator, and leader.



ENDOWED CHAIR FOR JEFF OJEMANN, MD

Dr. Jeff Ojemann has been named the inaugural holder of the George A. Ojemann Endowed Chair for Epilepsy Research. Dr. Ojemann is a nationally and internationally recognized thought leader in the epilepsy field. He has been a longstanding NIH/NINDS study section member and chaired the NST-1 study section. Currently he co-chairs the prestigious NINDS K12 program, which provides early-stage funding to neurosurgeon-scientists. In 2023, he was elected president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, an honor reserved for the top academic pediatric neurosurgeons nationally. He has served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Neurosurgery-Pediatrics* and the journal *Neurosurgery*. He has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has been invited as visiting professor to dozens of preeminent institutions across North America, Europe, and Asia. Most importantly, he has mentored 16 PhD candidates to completion, eight post-doctoral research fellows, and 30 clinical epilepsy/pediatric neurosurgery fellows.



Kenneth and Margaret Quarles were dear friends and neighbors of UW Department of Neurological Surgery retired faculty members, Professors George and Linda Ojemann who share a common interest in the treatment of patients with difficult seizure problems and an understanding of higher brain functions. Mr. Quarles retired from the Alaska Steamship Company where he worked for most of his life except for time spent in the Air Force in WWII and Korea serving as a navigator and bombardier. He was very proud of being a veteran and having been able to support his country. Once retired, Mr. and Mrs. Quarles continued to enjoy their lives in the Puget Sound area by sailing extensively on Lake Washington and in the San Juan Islands. The Quarles were named 2006 Citizens of the Year by the City of Mercer Island when they generously entered into an agreement with Mercer Island to transfer a large piece of their property adjacent to Pioneer Park to be used exclusively for parks and recreation by all of the Island's residents. When Kenneth passed away peacefully in 2009, they had been married 50 years. Mrs. Quarles passed away in 2016 at the age of 101.

After receiving his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Iowa, Dr. George Ojemann completed his neurological surgery residency at the University of Washington, and in 1966 joined the faculty as a neurosurgeon and researcher specializing in epilepsy. Though he retired from clinical practice in 2005, he continues his research and teaching activities. Considered a giant in the field of both neurological surgery and neuroscience, George Ojemann has helped define and shape both disciplines. His superb care of individuals with epilepsy and brain tumors coupled with pioneering clinical research on cortical mapping and language localization has affected countless lives globally. He has been an influential leader at the national level including service on NIH Council and our national accrediting and education boards and through his publications and teaching; he has dramatically influenced innovation in neurosurgical care and neuroscience research. Dr. George Ojemann has enhanced science, patient care, and the education of generations of UW medical students and residents. His legacy will stand in perpetuity for the good it has brought to our greater community of medicine and science.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP FOR MIKE LEVITT, MD



Dr. Mike Levitt has been named the next holder of the prestigious Arthur A. Ward Endowed Professorship in Neurological Surgery. Dr. Levitt exemplifies the commitment to academic cerebrovascular clinical work, cutting edge research and educating the future leaders in our field. He is an internationally recognized leader in the treatment of cerebrovascular disease, both clinically and in the research realm. He is a respected and admired leader in the department, at Harborview Medical Center, and at the School of Medicine.

The Ward Professorship was established in 1987 through the Regional Excellence campaign which was conducted jointly by the School of Medicine and University Hospital to raise funds sufficient to endow several professorships and chairs at the University. Included among these was the Arthur A. Ward Professorship in Neurological Surgery, named in honor of the first chair of the Neurological Surgery Department and director of the Epilepsy Center in Seattle. The Ward Professorship was first held by Dr. Daniel L. Silbergeld from 1997-2025. Dr. Silbergeld is a renowned tumor surgeon, beloved educator and former Chief of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Arthur A. Ward, Jr., born in Manipay, Ceylon, received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Yale University. After serving an internship at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, New York and a residency at Montreal Neurological Institute in Canada, he became an instructor of neurosurgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. In 1948, Dr. Ward joined the University of Washington faculty as assistant professor of surgery and was subsequently promoted to associate professor and then to professor. In 1965, he was appointed the first chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery and served in this capacity until 1981. He retired in 1986 and passed away in 1997.

Dr. Ward, an internationally acclaimed expert in epilepsy, was instrumental in establishing the Regional Epilepsy Center at Harborview Medical Center, one of the first in the nation. He served as president of the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons and held offices and memberships in many other professional organizations and societies. He also served on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals related to the field of neurological science.