



DECEMBER 2024

# NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY MOMENTS

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



## Message from the Chair

RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD

November was a very sweet month. In fact, autumn in our department was filled with excitement and achievements. The Harborview Gala was a blast...and a successful one at that, raising \$13 million for the UW Medicine Neurosciences Institute. I had the most fun getting to work with two of my favorite colleagues on stage telling the Harborview story: Neurology Chair, Dr. Bay Leslie-Mazwi, and CEO, Sommer Kleweno-Walley. New babies were welcomed into the world by department members, which is always uplifting. We celebrated 25 years of the world-class UW TCD lab. Professor Amy Lee earned the Richard G. Ellenbogen Endowed Chair for her accomplishments, and Dr. Jeff Ojemann was elevated to Chief Physician Executive Officer at Seattle Children's. Dr. Anu Amin was named Associate Residency Program Director at UWMC-Northwest and Dr. Rob Buckley earned the same position at Seattle Children's. We look forward to welcoming Professor Raj Ghodke, the endovascular Ninja, into our department in January. And finally, Dr. Levitt and his colleagues published a groundbreaking NEJM article about a new endovascular surgical treatment. After a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with much to be thankful for, we welcome the holidays with a sense of pride and comradery with our wonderful colleagues. Enjoy a healthy and blessed holiday season!



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## Harborview Gala raises \$13M for Neurosciences Institute

On November 14, 2024, at The Benefit for Harborview Medical Center, the community came together and raised more than \$13 million to support Harborview's vital role in our region and advance neuroscience innovation. The Benefit was held at Fremont Studios and attended by 400 guests.

The outpouring of generosity will help ensure that the world's most innovative neurological care is accessible to everyone in our region who needs it, providing hope and the best possible outcomes to people facing brain and nervous system disorders.



## MILESTONE CELEBRATION!

Dr. Ellenbogen, Dr. Sekhar and the team recently celebrated the UW Medicine Transcranial Doppler (TCD) lab's 25th year of accreditation by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.

TCD is a diagnostic ultrasound exam that measures blood flow to the brain and is a safe and effective way to screen for cerebrovascular diseases.







## RESIDENT EDUCATION UPDATES

Dr. Anubhav Amin is now the Associate Residency Program Director at UWMC - Northwest



Dr. Robert Buckley is now the Associate Residency Program Director at Seattle Children's Hospital



## ENDOWED CHAIR FOR AMY LEE, MD

Dr. Amy Lee has been named the Richard G. Ellenbogen Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery. The Ellenbogen Chair, previously occupied by Dr. Ojemann, was established in 2003 thanks to a generous donation from Rick and Kandy Holley and is meant to be filled by an individual who has achieved national recognition in the field of pediatric neurosurgery, and who will make significant contributions to the advancement of teaching and research in their field.



Dr. Lee is a superb clinician and outstanding leader whose notable achievements include expanding the field of endoscopic treatment of craniosynostosis, image guided brain tumor resection with "Tumor Paint" and novel treatments of congenital pediatric anomalies. Her leadership at SCH and for the WWAMI region has been exemplary. She has been Division Head of Neurosurgery at Seattle Children's since 2019. In this role, the Division has grown in volume, quality, and national prominence. Dr. Lee is the Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship Director, Co-Director of Seattle Children's Neurosciences Center and Surgical Director of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Program. Dr. Lee enjoys a well-earned national reputation as a gifted surgeon, superb educator and beloved leader.



## NEW BABIES!

Matt and Olivia Recker welcomed Chloe Emilia to the world on November 9th at 5:13pm. Chloe weighed 7lbs 3oz and measured 20.25 inches upon arrival.



Audrey, Robby and Harriet Branom welcomed Albert William Branom (Albie) 4 weeks early on November 16th. Audrey is doing great and Harriet is excited to be a big sister!



## NEW FACULTY MEMBER

It is our great pleasure to announce Dr. Basavaraj “Raj” Ghodke as a member of the department of neurological surgery beginning January 1st 2025. Dr. Ghodke has been the long-standing director of interventional neuroradiology at Harborview Medical Center who now joins us as UW Professor of Neurological Surgery and Radiology with over 20 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of cerebrovascular and neurological disorders, including specialization in acute stroke, aneurysms, AVMs, tumor embolizations, craniofacial vascular anomalies, and spinal CSF fistulas.



Dr. Ghodke completed his medical degree and vascular and interventional radiology residency at Grant Government Medical College in Mumbai, India, then went on to neurointerventional fellowships at both Fondation Ophtalmologique De Rothschild in Paris and at UW before joining the radiology department at UW in 2003. He has co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications, as well as dozens of national and internationally presented abstracts and invited lectures. Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Ghodke is a master teacher of residents, fellows and faculty, who raises the quality of care of everyone around him. Please join us in welcoming him to our department!

## NEW ROLE FOR JEFF OJEMANN, MD

Dr. Jeff Ojemann has been named Chief Physician Executive Officer at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Dr. Ojemann has been a physician leader since joining Children’s in 2003, first as division head for neurosurgery and then subsequently as surgeon-in-chief and chief medical officer. His expertise has been pivotal in shaping the hospital’s clinical strategy and fostering excellence in patient outcomes.





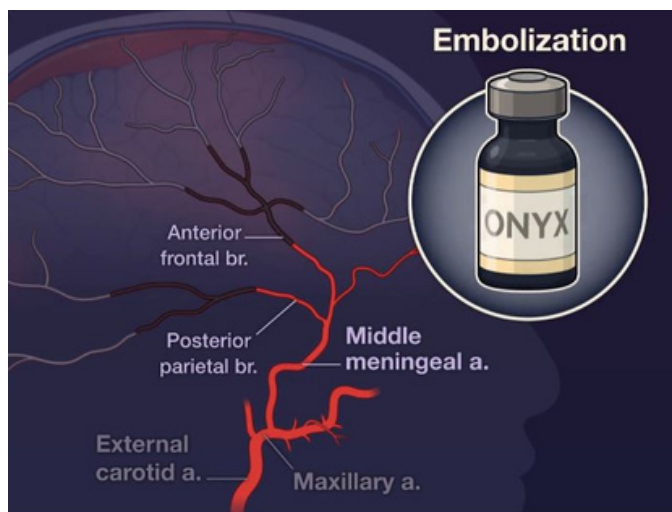


## EMBOLISE Study Featured in NEJM

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Levitt and his EMBOLISE co-authors whose multicenter study, “Adjunctive Middle Meningeal Artery Embolization for Subdural Hematoma” was published in the November 21st issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Chronic subdural hematoma is a common problem particularly in the elderly population. Surgical treatment has a high recurrence rate. A recent study of patients undergoing surgery for symptomatic chronic subdural hematoma showed that minimally invasive endovascular embolization significantly reduced the risk of reoperation.

This study is a landmark improvement to the treatment of this common disease. Future study of this treatment is ongoing at the University of Washington, including further industry- and NIH-supported clinical trials.



## STORY IDEAS?

If you have content you'd like included in Moments, please send it to Ann Fillingham at [annmck@uw.edu](mailto:annmck@uw.edu).