

SEPTEMBER 2024

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY MOMENTS

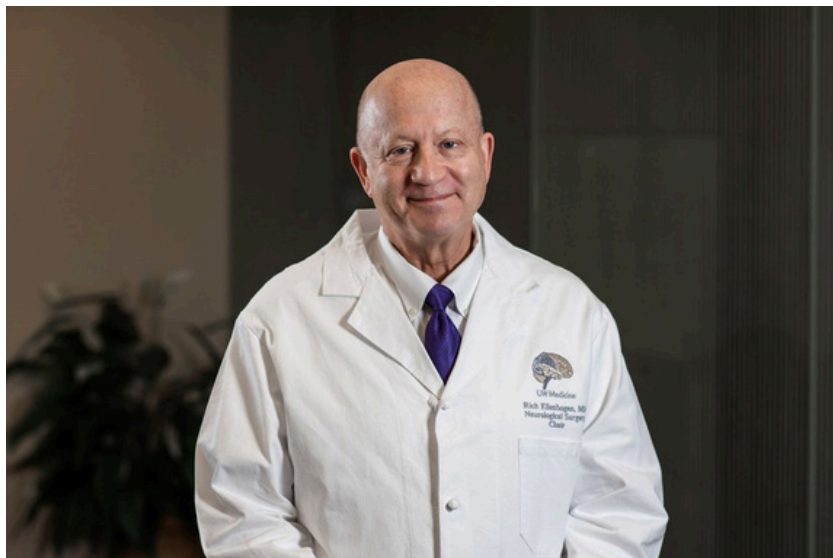
News and Updates from the University of Washington
Department of Neurological Surgery



Message from the Chair

RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD

What a crazy, busy summer! Greetings from the Department of Neurological Surgery. To begin with, twelve of our neurosurgeons were voted Top Docs by their peers and featured in Seattle Magazine; their photos are on page 2. All our faculty deserved the accolade if you ask me! The ever wise and prolific Professor Dedra Buchwald was awarded an inspiring 5-year, \$11.3 million grant to create and manage educational training programs for Alzheimer’s Disease in our native population. Neurosurgeon Hannah Goldstein and her partner Thommas show off their brand-new baby, Sadie Lila, to the department on page 3 and she is a beauty as is Karla Landis’ baby, Audrey Luise! Meet our seven talented new fellows recruited from around the country to train with us on page 4. On page 5, we congratulate and say goodbye to the graduates of our NIH R-25 training grant Neuroscience Summer Scholars Program which included college students from as far away as New York and Florida. And then for summer fun, our annual Hike to the Heavens led by the Kim family was a raging success with an impressive turnout of fit colleagues!



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OUR DOCS ARE TOPS!

Congratulations to members of the department who were voted Top Doctors in the Puget Sound region for 2024 by Seattle Magazine. For more than two decades, “Seattle” magazine has published a list of the region’s top doctors. None paid to be included. All were nominated by their peers. Their list of the top neurosurgeons includes the following department members:



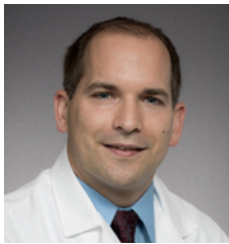
Samuel R. Browd, MD, PhD



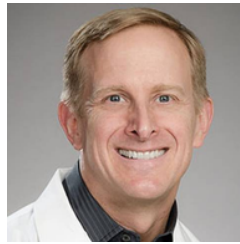
Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD



Manuel Ferreira, MD, PhD, MBA



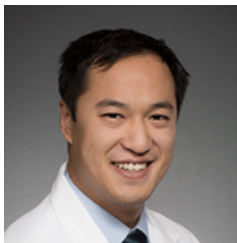
Christoph P. Hofstetter, MD, PhD



Stephen C. Houston, MD



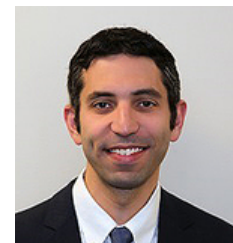
Louis J. Kim, MD, MBA



Andrew Ko, MD



Amy Lee, MD



Michael Levitt, MD



Jeffrey G. Ojemann, MD



Daniel L. Silbergeld, MD



Fangyi Zhang, MD

Exciting New Grant!

The Indian Health Service has awarded the University of Washington Department of Neurological Surgery a contract for up to 5 years and \$11,310,818 to create and manage educational and training programs on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). The primary goal of the Indian Health Service Dementia Training and Education Resources (IDTER) program is to increase the knowledge, confidence, and competency regarding dementia detection and management of primary care providers and staff working in diverse settings serving American Indian and Alaska Native patients. IDTER is led by Principal Investigator, Dedra Buchwald, MD, Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery and a member of the Neurosciences Institute. Dr. Buchwald, a highly respected and nationally known health disparities researcher, will lead an exceptional team of faculty and staff from UW Medicine, augmented by long-time collaborators. These include Mary Koithan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the College of Nursing at Washington State University, Jordan P. Lewis, PhD (Aleut/Sugpiaq, Native Village of Naknek), Professor and Director of Research, College of Indigenous Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Turner Goins, PhD, Distinguished Professor, College of Health and Human Sciences, Western Carolina University.

The IDTER program is designed to transform health systems and clinical and community health staff practices by embracing a person-centered care approach for people living with dementia and their caregivers in the Indian Health Service, and tribal and urban clinical facilities. These facilities encompass the providers and staff working in the health care systems that serve all 574 federally recognized tribes. IDTER will prepare this workforce to provide high quality care for older American Indian and Alaska Native adults at risk for ADRD through discipline-specific, competency-based training opportunities. The innovative training content will incorporate adult learning principles and best practices for engaged learning and instruction through an array of delivery methods. In addition, IDTER will establish new and manage existing pilot training programs and identify, train, and support clinical and community dementia care Champions in the health care systems used by Native elder patients. The ultimate goal of IDTER is to improve care and outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native elders.

Congratulations Dr. Buchwald!

BABY NEWS

Assistant Professor Hannah Goldstein, MD and her partner Thomas de Liefde welcomed Sadie Lila on August 15 at 11:39pm. Sadie weighed 5lbs, 12oz and was 17 3/4 inches long at birth.



Sports Institute Associate Director Karla Landis and her wife Adrienne Moore welcomed Audrey Luise Landis Moore on March 25, 2024 at 4:04am. Audrey weighed a healthy 7lbs, 5oz and was 20 inches long at birth.

CONGRATULATIONS ALL!





MEET OUR NEW FELLOWS

[Emma Celano, MD](#)

Dr. Celano was raised in Columbia, MD and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology at New York University. She completed medical school at Emory University in Atlanta and residency at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She is now undertaking a CV-Skull Base Fellowship with us.

[Aria Jamshidi, MD](#)

Dr. Jamshidi who is also a CV-Skull Base Fellow on our service, received his BS in Biology with Honors as well as his Medical Doctorate from George Washington University. He completed his neurosurgery residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital, University Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami, Florida.

[Michael Jensen, MD, PhD](#)

Michael grew up in Stafford County Virginia and spent most of his childhood on the east coast. Michael always had a love for the great outdoors so after graduating from high school he moved to Utah. While in Utah, he obtained a PhD in the laboratory of Dr. Maricq and focused his research on understanding the genetic mechanisms that govern nerve cell communication. Following his PhD, he pursued postdoctoral training and studied how trafficking of cellular proteins regulates synaptic function. He then pursued an MD degree from Utah and subsequently went to Stanford for his neurosurgical training. During his time at Stanford, he focused on treating complex spinal deformity and disease. He is now completing a spinal fellowship at the University of Washington. Outside of neurosurgery, Michael is an avid outdoors enthusiast and enjoys spending time with family.

[Tyler Lazaro, MD](#)

Our current endovascular fellow, Dr. Lazaro graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Neuroscience from Boston University where he also earned his Medical Doctorate in 2017. He performed his residency in neurosurgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. Dr. Lazaro will remain on our service as a CV-Skull Base fellow in AY26.

[Matthew J. Recker, MD](#)

Dr. Matthew Recker was born in Pittsburgh, PA and grew up in central Pennsylvania. He attended the University of Pittsburgh for his undergraduate education, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. He completed medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society for his academic achievements. He then went on to complete his neurosurgery residency at the University at Buffalo, which included an enfolded fellowship in Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery. Dr. Recker's primary clinical focus is Pediatric Neurosurgery with a particular interest in epilepsy and movement disorders.

[Dominic Siler, MD](#)

Dominic Siler grew up in the Pacific Northwest and moved to southern California to attend California State University Long Beach as a music performance major. While there, he discovered a passion for medicine and neuroscience, then changed directions to pursue a career as a physician-scientist. He returned to Portland, Oregon to attend OHSU as part of the MSTP MD, PhD program. During his training, he successfully competed for NIH F30 funding and obtained a PhD in the laboratory of Nabil Alkayed MD, PhD, studying mechanisms of delayed cerebral ischemia following subarachnoid hemorrhage. His dissertation now serves as the groundwork for a novel therapy to treat patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage and is currently in phase 1 clinical trials. After graduation, Dominic stayed on to train with OHSU's neurosurgery program. While in training, his clinical practice and research focused on the critically ill neurosurgery population, especially neurotrauma. He is now completing a neurotrauma/neurocritical care fellowship at the University of Washington. Outside of neurosurgery, Dominic spends all of his free time with his wife, Janelle, and two kids, Bastian and Esme, who are the light of his life.

[David Y. Zhao, MD](#)

David Zhao grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. He completed his undergraduate degree in microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics at UCLA. He obtained his medical degree from Georgetown University, where he also went on to complete his neurosurgery residency. He is currently a spine fellow on our service.



IT'S A WRAP!



Congratulations to our 2024 Summer Program Graduates (see list below). Twelve students from the Seattle area and as far away as Florida, Tennessee, Texas and New York participated in the Neuroscience Summer Scholars Program hosted by the Department of Neurological Surgery and the Department of Neurology and sponsored by the NIH.

Every year we invite a group of talented and highly motivated students interested in the neurosciences to participate in our 8-week program which consists of a lab placement, attendance at Neurological Surgery Grand Rounds, OR observations and weekly faculty talks. The program culminates with presentations by participants on their research focus in front of family, friends and mentors. This year's presentations spanned a wide variety of topics including the use of digital image analysis to assess Alzheimer's disease pathology in the visual cortex, utilizing AI drug screening and whole exome sequencing for new treatment options in recurrent high-grade meningiomas and the durability of gene replacement therapy efficacy in a mouse model of Dravet Syndrome, to name a few.

- Gino Adamson (Arcadia, FL) • Weinstein Lab
- Fatima Alziyad (Orlando, FL) • Stroke & Applied NeuroScience Center
- Madeline Bradbury (Newport, WA) • McDonough Lab
- Malia Callier (Kent, WA) • Davis Lab
- Karen Chen (Brooklyn, NY) • Keene Lab
- George Daily-Lyles (Tukwila, WA) • Ferreira Lab
- Michelle Fung (Bellevue, WA) • Stroke & Applied NeuroScience Center
- Samantha Hanson (Bothell, WA) • Kalume Lab
- Sakinah Husson (Renton, WA) • Ellenbogen/Zhang Lab
- Ariah Richards (Houston, TX) • Ramirez Lab
- Blake Robinson (Bartlett, TN) • Ferreira Lab
- Evelyn Smith (Kirkland, WA) • Lein Lab



SUMMER FUN!

The Department of Neurological Surgery held its 17th annual Hike to the Heavens on July 20th, hosted by Louis and Aylin Kim. Thirty intrepid participants including faculty, APPs, fellows, residents, visitors and sub-i's hiked the challenging 13-mile loop in the Olympic National Park. They had beautiful clear weather during the entire hike. One hiker brought her fishing pole and caught a couple of fish and some hikers including Dr. Kim's son Ken, swam in the lake after the hike. The beautiful day outdoors concluded with a group dinner at Sergio's Hacienda.



Fun was had by all at the annual Neurosurgery APP Summer BBQ hosted at the Magnuson Cafe & Brewery on July 21st

