

The Newspaper

**University of Kentucky
Department of Neurology
July 2023**

Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents
2. [Publications/Presentations/Faculty Achievements](#)
3. [Faculty Achievements Cont./Faculty Kudos](#)
4. [Resident Kudos/Staff Information Reminder](#)
5. [Departmental Trainee of the Month/Seen and Heard](#)
6. [Welcome](#)
7. [Philanthropy](#)
8. [Wellness and Support Resources](#)
9. [Events](#)
10. [Save the Dates](#)

Publications



Pilonieta G, Rhodus EK, Ebong I, Molina-Henry D. Disparities in Alzheimer-related dementias: considerations for clinical decision-making and treatment. *Practical Neurology*. 2023;22(5):42-46.

Presentations



Padmaja Sudhakar, MD, and Mangay Thandampallayam, MD, presented at the Upper Midwest Neuro-ophthalmology group meeting in Chicago. Dr. Sudhakar's talk was titled, "Trapped in my head." Dr. Thandampallayam's talk was titled, "Rare cause of Diplopia."

Faculty Achievements



Amanda Glueck, PhD, will serve on the Editorial Board as a Review Editor for *Frontiers in Neurology* and *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*. Congratulations!

Faculty Achievements Cont.



Saurav Das, MD, was appointed Chair-Elect of the American Heart Association Stroke Early Career Committee. Congratulations!

Faculty Kudos



Ima Ebong, MD, received a very nice note from a rising senior in neuroscience! She wrote Dr. Ebong: "I am writing to say thank you again for allowing me to shadow you in May while you cared for your patients. I am incredibly grateful for the time you spent with me and everything you taught me, and this experience has increased my desire to go to medical school and become a physician even more, and potentially pursue Epilepsy! I hope one day I can treat my patients with the same compassion, care, and effectiveness that you do. It was truly inspiring."



"Take this at bedtime. It'll help you sleep."

Resident Kudos



Rani Priyanka Vasireddy, MD, PGY 4 received a very nice note from a patient.

"This note is now exactly one year overdue, but we wanted to celebrate the one year anniversary of my husband's life-saving surgery by taking a moment to sincerely thank the medical resident who saved his life. My husband was playing softball on June 30, 2022 when he suddenly collapsed on the field. Most people watching assumed he had hit his head on a fence while trying to catch a fly-ball in the outfield, sustaining a concussion. But when he stopped being able to communicate or move one side of his body, it quickly became evident that something far more serious had happened and an ambulance ride was in order. I wasn't at the game, so by the time I reunited with him at the ER, she wasn't able to provide the team with much information about what had happened. When she saw him, he was intubated and seemed to be having seizures. It was obvious that the ER team was baffled by his situation and trying to remain calm as his condition quickly deteriorated. Into this chaos walked Rani Priyanka Vasireddy. She brought a calm confidence that cut through what had become a cascade of medication and intervention. By the time she could see him, he had been given anti-seizure medication, intubated, and collected something like 5 IVs. All of this would make her task more difficult. So too would the fact that no witnesses of the accident were actually present. Despite all of this, she was able to bring life-saving clarity to the situation. She got a witness on the phone and got detailed medical history from his wife. She accurately determined that he needed to be rushed to neurology and started clot-busting medication. The scans revealed what she had guessed, my husband had suffered an arterial dissection and had a massive stroke. She made this diagnosis with minutes to spare (approximately 4.5hrs had passed from incident to surgery) before he needed to be rushed to emergency surgery. After a long and difficult thrombectomy involving 5 passes, Dr. Shivani Pahwa was able to remove the clot. We write to you a year later to report that he has recovered fully with no lasting effects. Physically, cognitively, interpersonally—he is totally normal."

Staff Information Reminder

Lee Anne Rudd, Administrative Assistant to the Chair, and Caitlin Moran, GME Coordinator, Neurology Education, are both Notaries.

Departmental Trainee of the Month - July



Saniya Pervin, MBBS, PGY 4.

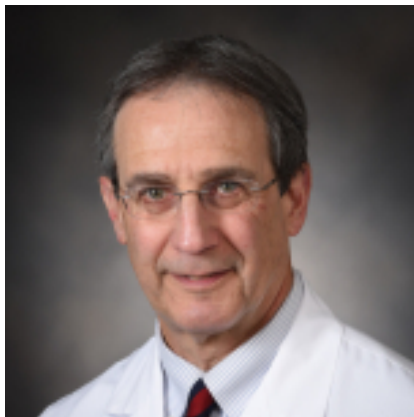
Communication Skills: Dr. Pervin did an outstanding job on ICU. She is organized and thorough, She solicits and incorporates feedback. She is compassionate, has excellent communication with patients and families, and is always on top of her patient's complex medical issues.

Medical Knowledge: With superior clinical skills and rock-solid medical knowledge, she takes every opportunity to share what she knows with medical students and junior residents. She has done exceedingly well from the academic standpoint. She has published, undertaken and presented several research projects at national and

international meetings. She gives her 100% to everything she takes on, including wellness initiatives

Leadership: Dr. Pervin is always a pleasure to work with. The same sentiment is shared by the medical students who were on service with us, several of whom wrote to me, or later mentioned in their evaluations that she created an inclusive learning environment, and wasted no opportunity to spend time teaching.

Seen and Heard



Larry B. Goldstein, MD, was quoted in an article for UKNow entitled, "UK HealthCare/Norton Healthcare – Stroke Care Network announces 37th affiliate." [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Dr. Goldstein was interviewed by WEKU, for Here and Now. He talked about Stroke continuing to be a challenging health condition in Kentucky. [Click here](#) to read or hear the interview.



Jay Avasarala, MD, PhD, was featured in an article for UKNow in a story entitled, "Work by UK neurologist to improve access to multiple sclerosis treatments accepted by WHO." [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Welcome



Mais Alkawaz, MD, joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Neurology. Dr. Alkawaz obtained her MD from Weill Cornell Medicine, Doha, Qatar in 2015. She then completed her internship in Internal Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medicine- Internal Medicine (2015-2016) followed by Neurology residency at that institution (2015-2019), a Neurocritical Care Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University (2019-2021) and then a Neuroendovascular Surgery Fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, which she completed this spring. Clinically, Dr. Alkawaz will be working with neurointerventional colleagues in Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology where she will be sharing in responsibilities for performing

interventional procedures for patients with acute stroke and other neurovascular disorders. She will also be sharing some coverage responsibilities on our Vascular Neurology inpatient service. Dr. Alkawaz has already been productive academically. She contributed to 15 peer-review reports (9 as first author) including in *Lancet Neurology*, *Journal of Neurointerventional Surgery*, and *Neurocritical Care*.



Ana Cueli, PsyD, MPH, completed her undergraduate degree in psychology and master's in public health at Florida International University in Miami, and she earned her doctorate in the clinical psychology program at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale. She comes to us having just completed her clinical internship year at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville.



Mallory Richert, PsyD, completed her undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy, with a minor in gerontology, at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, and she earned her doctorate in the clinical psychology program at Xavier University in Cincinnati. She comes to us having just completed her clinical internship year at the VA Ann Arbor Health System.

Philanthropy

Robert J. Baumann, MD Resident Endowment Fund

The endowment was established in honor of Dr. Baumann's skills as a clinician and educator. It provides much needed funding for resident learning opportunities and research-related needs that are not otherwise supported.



Education is one of the core missions of our department - we are always looking for ways to improve the curriculum and educational opportunities we provide. Our goal is to continue to attract the highest caliber trainees to our programs, provide comprehensive neurological education, and increase the number of neurologists available in the commonwealth capable of providing cutting edge patient care and who are dedicated to life-long learning. In 2015, the Robert J. Baumann, MD Fund for Neurology Residents was established to help us support our goals for the neurology resident program. Dr. Baumann has been a familiar face among neurology residents at the University of

Kentucky for four decades. Dr. Baumann truly embodies the teaching mission of our department. His devotion to the field of medicine and training the next generation of providers is truly second to none.

In keeping with Dr. Baumann's passion for providing a strong medical education, the endowment will bolster the continued expansion of the Residency Program and ensure that our trainees have a well-rounded experience, positioning us to be among the best,



and most sought out programs in the United States. Please consider contributing to the continued growth of our program and making an impact on future neurology residents by making a gift to the Robert J. Baumann MD Fund for Neurology Residents. All donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible.



Donations can be made by contacting our Director of Philanthropy, Lisa Deaton Greer. (859-323-5374 or lisa.greer@uky.edu) or by clicking here <https://neurology.med.uky.edu/neurology-alumni>.

Wellness and Support Resources



[Click here](#) to find more helpful information on our Department of Neurology website.

UK Wellness Resources

Academic Resources offer a wide variety of online and in-person tips, tools, and suggestions.

Workplace Safety

UK HealthCare is committed to safety and well-being of patients, visitors, and staff in our enterprise. We take all forms of aggression, violence, and threats seriously. Sometimes frontline staff don't report these incidents, because they feel disruptive behavior is "part of the job". There is uncertainty about how and where to report.

Childcare

Several childcare facilities are located on or adjacent to the UK campus. Please note that some of these programs have a 9-10 month waiting list, so if you are interested, please talk to the directors as early as possible.

Financial Health

You and your family have access to live financial experts for guidance on financial questions, big or small.

Diversity and Inclusion

As healthcare providers, we have an obligation to do no harm. But our obligations go further to prevent harm from befalling others because of our inaction or silence.

Spiritual

Various resources are available for spiritual support through the GME program.

Abuse Response and Reporting

For procedures to report abuse, and for details of patient rights, click the title.

The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit

The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit (VTT) was developed on the premise that exposure to the traumatic experiences of other people—known as vicarious trauma—is an inevitable occupational challenge for the fields of victim services, emergency medical services, fire services, law enforcement, and other allied professions; however, organizations can mitigate the potentially negative effects of trauma exposure by becoming vicarious trauma-informed.

Well-Being

The University of Kentucky GME Wellness In Training Committee is devoted to helping GME learners achieve their highest potential through the integration of the physical, social, emotional, environmental and economic aspects of wellness.

Physician Support Line

This is a peer-to-peer support line for physicians by physicians that is available to US based DO / MD / international equivalents at the attending, fellow, resident, intern, medical student, or research level. Any discussions are confidential and protected.

Lexington Medical Society Physician Wellness Program

Services include individual counseling, couples/family sessions, and sessions with spouse/partners alone. These confidential and free counseling services are available to anyone.

UK Work-Life Counseling

Free and confidential counseling for life stress, work performance, substance abuse concerns, and mental health.

UK REFER Program

A Family Center Counseling service provided as a benefit to UK employees that focuses on personal, couple, and/or family concerns.

Emergent Psychiatry Services

UK Department of Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic Access to confidential consultation is available through the UK Outpatient Clinic during business hours, five days per week. Call 859-323-6021 and follow the prompts for the Outpatient Clinic.

The Ridge Behavioral System

Access to confidential consultation regarding the need for emergency psychiatric services is available to 24 hours per day, seven days a week. The house staff officer is to call 859-268-6400 and ask for the Assessment Office and identify oneself as a UK resident/fellow needing immediate evaluation.

Events

Walk with a Doc



Ima Ebong, MD, volunteered to do UK HealthCare Walk with a Doc at the Fayette Mall.



Save the Dates



**8TH GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM
ON KETOGENIC THERAPIES**

17 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2023
LOEWS CORONADO BAY RESORT

PRESENTED AND SPONSORED BY: Rady Children's Hospital, UC San Diego, University of Kentucky, Charlie Foundation, Autism Speaks, and others.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: University of California San Diego, University of Kentucky, and others.

Hosted by University of California San Diego this year, Dr. Sid Kapoor and Dr. Dan Han's neurogastronomy and ketogenic treatment for epilepsy symposia in collaboration with the International Neurologic Ketogenic Society, International Society of Neurogastronomy, the Charlie Foundation, Matthew's Friends, and the Glut1DS Foundation were recently awarded an R13 by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. This also supplements their ongoing R13 support by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Join them in September in San Diego: <https://web.cvent.com/event/cc711566-cbc0-4ac8-8024-a8b-78c54482a/summary>

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HealthCare NORTON HEALTHCARE
STROKE CARE NETWORK

SAVE THE DATE!

**2023
SCN SUMMIT**

September 28 - 29, 2023
Hyatt Regency Lexington, KY



HealthCare NORTON HEALTHCARE
STROKE CARE NETWORK

**WE ARE EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE ONE OF OUR
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS!**

 **Christine Cosby-Gaither Ed.D**
Stroke Survivor
Founder of A Stroke of Grace

Thursday, September 28th
9:15 - 10:15am
Hyatt Regency Lexington, KY



**2023
NEUROSCIENCE RPA
CLINICAL-TRANSLATIONAL
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

Healthy Kentucky Research Building

November 2, 2023 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Neuroscience Data Blitz and Networking/Social Hour
(advanced registration required - limited to graduate students & above)



November 3, 2023 9:00am - 5:00pm

Full Day Program feat. keynote speaker, Dr. Edward Kasarskis

Abstract Submission open until:
September 22, 2023 11:59pm

Registration and Abstract Submission

Rachel Ward-Mitchell, RN, BSN, would like to invite you to the virtual epilepsy support group meeting every other week via Zoom. This meeting will replace the in-person monthly meeting for now. If you would like to join the meetings please contact Rachel at 859.218.5053 or through Central Kentucky Epilepsy Network <https://www.facebook.com/CentralKentuckyEpilepsySupportNetwork>.

Please submit contributions for the August Newspaper to Lee Anne Rudd, (lee.rudd@uky.edu).