



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am excited to share with you the latest updates and news from the MCG Department of Neurology celebrating our outstanding faculty and residents.

In this issue, we spotlight our pediatric epilepsy program, led by Dr. Yong Park, that offers state-of-the-art epilepsy surgery for children with refractory seizures. Further, we are coming off another successful residency match with seven incoming talented future neurologists. As you will learn, our candidates are diverse in their background, training and interests and apt additions to our Neurologic community.

Our faculty continues to expand. In coming issues, I hope to introduce you to two new hires, Amanda Andrews, who is currently completing a clinical neurophysiology fellowship with us, will join our growing pediatric neurology section and Gerald Wallace, currently completing his training at Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa will double the size of our Neuro-oncology division.

I also want to congratulate our outstanding faculty who continue to be recognized for their achievements. In April, Debra Moore-Hill and Alfredo Garcia were formerly inducted to the AOA Honor Medical Society reflecting their tremendous academic accomplishments including their roles in leadership, scholarship and education.

More recently, John Morgan and Tom Swift received prestigious awards from the MCG Faculty Senate. John, as most of you will know, is the rare faculty member who excels as a clinician, teacher and researcher and has dedicated his time to the betterment of MCG and the community. John was the Director of our National Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence from 2008 to 2021. With only 35 NPF Centers in the country this puts him in esteemed company. Further John is a multiple awardee of the MCG Exemplary Teaching Award, has more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts to this credit, and has served in leadership roles for the institution, the state of Georgia and the AAN.

Tom, also of course, is well known to all of our alumni as Chair of the department from 1983-2000, as President of the AAN from 2005-7, and as a persistent force within our department since I arrived here for my training in 2001. It became a residency rite of passage at MCG to present to Tom during Professor Rounds and to experience his lecture on the Leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana in the 1970s. Tom received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Faculty Senate celebrating his impact on our department and institution. Remarkably, this is the third straight year that a Neurology Department Faculty member has won this award, following Fenwick Nichols in 2020 and Kapil Sethi in 2021.

We couldn't succeed without your support. Please keep in touch and hope to see you soon.

Best Wishes,



Jeffrey A. Switzer, DO, MCTS, FAHA, FAAN
Professor and Chair of Neurology
Director, Telestroke and Teleneurology
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

706-721-7051
jswitzer@augusta.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 706-721-4581
Fax: 706-721-1459
1120 15th Street
BI - 3080
Augusta, GA 30912

The MCG Department of Neurology always appreciates donations to support our residents, programs and research. You can make a donation by clicking this link. On behalf of those who we educate and care for, thank you for supporting the MCG Department of Neurology.

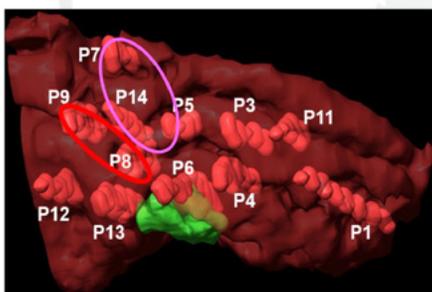
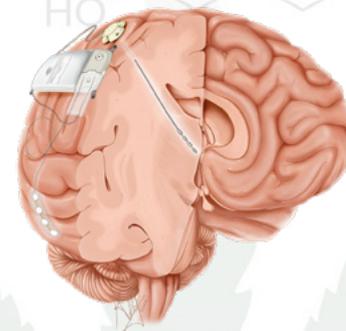
<https://mcgfoundation.org/neurologysupport/>

FEATURE ARTICLE

AU Pediatric Epilepsy Program and Using Cannabidiol for Children with Refractory Epilepsy.

Yong Park, MD

Augusta University Epilepsy Center including pediatric epilepsy program has been [NAEC](#) level 4 epilepsy center. Our center provides comprehensive care to people with epilepsy, by various treatment options including ASMs (antiseizure medications), diet, epilepsy surgery with/without noninvasive monitoring (SEEG, subdural grid/strips/depth electrodes), and neuromodulations (VNS and RNS).



Cartoon of SEEG (fig 1) shows focal ictal zone (red circle) in patient with refractory CPS despite multiple ASMs and right temporal neocortical resection. RNS was placed (fig 2) over right CM thalamic nucleus and temporal region. Electrocorticography (fig 3) from RNS shows seizure activity with stimulation.

Figure 1. SO: VLFA at 30-32 Hz from P8 (3-5), P9 (1-5)/ less in P5, P7, P14

Children’s Hospital of Georgia pediatric epilepsy program was the major site of Georgia cannabidiol (CBD) study from 2015. The results support CBD as an adjunctive treatment for children with treatment-resistant epilepsy (TRE)¹. CBD, the active ingredient in Epidiolex lacks the euphoric effects associated with marijuana. CBD does not appear to exert the anticonvulsant effects through interaction with cannabinoid receptors. The precise mechanisms by which Epidiolex exerts the anticonvulsant effects are unknown but are likely multiple modes of action. CBD neither directly binds to nor activates CB1 or CB2 receptors at physiologically achievable concentrations.

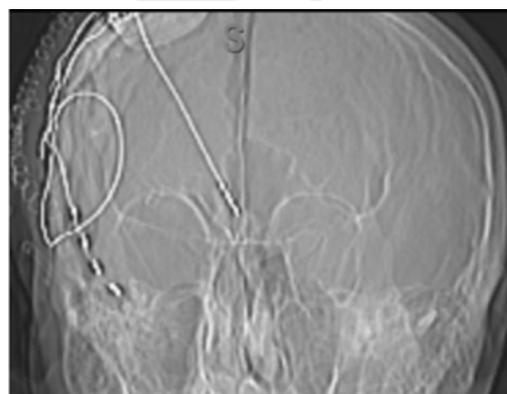


Figure 2. X-ray showing RNS placement

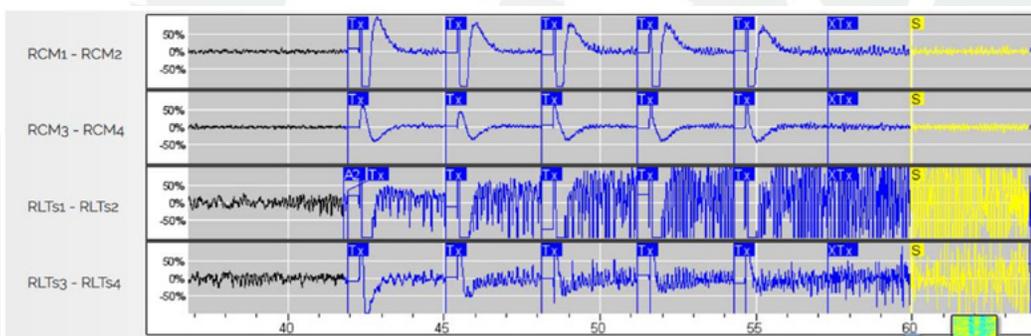


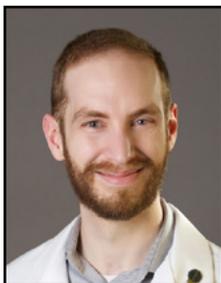
Figure 3. ECoG showing seizure activity with stimulation

1 Read the full article here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1525505020306545?via%3Dihub>



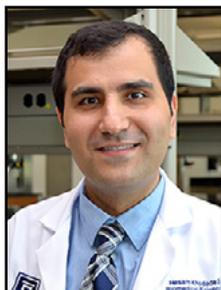
NEW INTERNS

Brian Brown, MD



I was born in Texas, but growing up in a military family I was raised all over the country. I completed undergrad at the University of Wyoming and went on to medical school in the inaugural class of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, golfing, playing board games, and used to love flying light aircraft which is a hobby I hope to get back into one day! After finishing residency, I am hoping to pursue an epilepsy fellowship. Specialty interests are, Epilepsy, Movement Disorders and Headache Medicine

Hesam Khodadadi Chamgordani, MD



I was born and raised in Isfahan, Iran. I received my medical degree from Isfahan University. After graduating from medical school, my wife and I moved to the United States and I started working as a post-doctoral research fellow in the field of neuroimmunology. I was very lucky to have mentorship of excellent scientists and clinicians on my journey which led me to pursue my passion as a clinician-scientist by getting PhD in neuroscience and molecular medicine. My main area of interest is Dementia and Neurocognitive Disorders, and I am very excited to start a new chapter of my life as a neurology resident at Augusta University. I spend my free time watching true crime documentaries with my wife, playing with our little puppy (Benji), and playing piano. I can't wait to dig in deeper into the amazing world of neurology.

Shane Musick, MD



Born and raised in southern West Virginia, where I completed both my undergraduate studies and medical school, I felt it was time to spread my wings elsewhere. Having been to Augusta several times, and learning more about the program, I knew it was an ideal fit. My current neuro interest is in Neurointerventional, albeit I've been obsessed with all things under the neuroscience umbrella since beginning this journey. My hobbies include playing video games (mainly on Xbox), lifting weights (where I once won a powerlifting competition), listening to podcasts (hardcore history is my favorite), and playing basketball (RIP Kobe).

Mitchell Oei, MD



I was born and raised in sunny Santa Monica, California where I developed a love for the ocean and two of my favorite hobbies, surfing and SCUBA diving. I did my undergrad education at Cornell University in upstate New York, where I studied marine biology. I attended medical school at the University of Queensland-Ochsner Clinical School, where I spent two years in Brisbane, Australia and two years in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to my outdoor hobbies, I enjoy building computers, working on my car, and following up on aerospace and world news! Although there is still much for me to learn in the realm of neurology, I am currently interested in pursuing the fields of Interventional Neurology, Neurocritical Care, or Vascular Neurology after completing my residency training. I can't wait to see all that Augusta has to offer, and am excited to train at MCG!



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Brandon Pope, MD



I am originally from Decatur, Georgia. I attended the University of Georgia for undergrad in Athens, Georgia. Go DAWGS!! From there, I spent four months as a Lab Technician at MCG in the Department of Cell & molecular Biology and 18 months as a Postbaccalaureate IRTA scholar in Maryland at the NINDS. Next, I went to UAB and completed both my Ph.D and MD as a part of the medical scientist training program there. I am a father of two lovely children, husband to my amazing wife Rachel, lover of all things travel, basketball, and finance! I love the brain and am most interested currently in neuroimmunology and interventional neurology! I'm excited about the opportunity to grow my knowledge and clinical skills in Neurology. Moreover, I feel fortunate to be able to train at MCG and develop great relationships with the residents, faculty, and patients that we serve. Specialty interests include, Neuroimmunology/MS, Interventional Neurology, and Clinical Neurophysiology.

Rakchhya Shrestha, MD



I was born in Nepal, where I did my medical school at Kathmandu Medical College. My interest in Neurology grew while in medical school. I have not fully decided on my career yet but I have great interest in clinical electrophysiology and movement disorder. I am looking forward to starting PGY 2 at Augusta and exploring neurology in depth. Outside of residency, I enjoy painting, reading, and playing ping pong. I love traveling and exploring new places and food. My list of specialties are, Clinical Neurophysiology, Movement Disorder and General Neurology.

Han Saem Yoo, DO



I was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. I went to Yale for undergrad, studied molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and went to NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine for medical school. In my free time, I enjoying practicing and performing the violin. I also like to cook korean food and home-garden my sesames and lettuces. My subspecialty interests are Movement Disorder, Behavioral Neurology and Stroke.

UPCOMING EVENT

- AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS -

July 6 - 9, 2022

Seizures, Spells and Shakes: Neurology for the Non-Neurologist

The East Beach Conference Center, Kiawah Island,
 South Carolina

[SEE BROCHURE HERE](#)

