

Subject:

UW Medicine Neurologists Expand Access to Care

UW Medicine NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE

A Higher Degree of Healthcare

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UW Medicine Neurology on Pace to Transform Rural Health

UW Medicine is uniquely positioned to transform neurology care for patients who live in remote locations throughout the five-state region. Department of Neurology Chair **Thabele (Bay) Leslie-Mazwi, MD**, outlines how the department helps increase access through its clinical, research and education efforts.

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Cognitive Impairment Testing Misses Diagnoses in American Indians

Tests used to detect cognitive decline are inaccurate in older American Indian patients. Using MRI scans and screenings, **Astrid Suchy-Dicey, PhD**, determined thresholds that

indicate cognitive impairment are inaccurate for this group, meaning many go undiagnosed. Her results point to the need to update how we assess these patients.

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Seizure Remission Possible in Patients Who Don't See Improvement via Surgery

Patients who don't get seizure relief through epilepsy surgery can still achieve seizure remission. **John Miller, MD, PhD**, and **Nicholas Poolos, MD, PhD**, discovered 20% of patients for whom surgery fails become seizure-free. Patients with fewer post-surgery seizures, especially those with cavernous hemangioma resections, were likely to achieve remission.

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News & Leading Research

- The **Department of Neurology** welcomes several new faculty members. In this period of growth and expansion, 14 new faculty members have joined the department this past year in areas from Pediatric to Cognitive Neurology. They come to the Pacific Northwest from all over the country and are excited to add their unique contributions to our existing 160-plus faculty and 55 trainees.
- Brain MRI, funduscopy and transcranial Doppler can improve the detection of cerebral fat embolism syndrome. Vascular neurologists **Arielle P. Davis, MD**, **Breana Taylor, MD**, **David Tirschwell, MD, MSc**, and **W.T. Longstreth, MD**, share [their empiric management algorithm](#) for this condition in a new study.
- Researchers linked a homozygous mutation of the calcium-dependent secretion activator 2 (CADPS2) gene to severe neurodegenerative diseases with Lewy body-like pathology in parrots. Based on neuropathological exams and whole genome sequencing, **Oswaldo Lorenzo-Betancor, MD, PhD**, and **Cyrus P. Zabetian, MD**, determined [parrots with this mutation developed lesions throughout the brain](#). These findings could lead to vital insights into the pathophysiology of Lewy body disorders.
- Geriatric researcher **Brian Kraemer, PhD**, and his colleagues identified a protein — speckle-type POZ protein (SPOP) — that plays a role in helping cells eliminate defective proteins. They also discovered [turning SPOP off decreases the accumulation of tau](#), the protein most directly tied to neurocognitive decline. They are also exploring whether another protein — suppressor for tauopathy-2 — could be an effective therapy.
- **Jamie Wright, MD, PhD**, who has congenital hydrocephalus, [begins her second year as a UW Medicine neurology resident](#). In addition to her training in the program, she dedicates her off-hours to counseling parents of newly diagnosed children.

UW Medicine's Neurosciences Institute

UW Medicine is home to one of the largest and most experienced teams of neurologists and neurological surgeons. They provide the best neurological care at four hospitals – University of Washington Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Children’s Hospital and the VA (Veterans Affairs) Puget Sound.

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University of Washington Medical Center named state’s top hospital for 11th year

UW Medical Center is again ranked #1 in Washington state highlighting the outstanding work of UW Medicine’s 39,000-plus faculty, staff, students and trainees in support of our mission to improve the health of the public.

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