MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Greetings. We are delighted to begin 2016 with the next edition of our departmental newsletter. This issue highlights additional new faculty members, some post-doctoral fellows and several members of our administrative staff. We have been fortunate to have exceptionally talented post-doctoral research fellows; it is always a happy transition when outstanding fellows join the faculty, as is the case for Drs. Almeida and Fallini. Also critical to our success are the individuals who administer the clinics and the laboratories, co-equal cornerstones of our departmental mission of understanding and treating neurological disorders. Finally, we are very pleased to welcome Dr. Ika Noviatwaty to the department as well. Let me take this opportunity to welcome our new team members and extend warm wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy New Year.

− Robert H. Brown, Jr., DPhil, MD

WELCOME!

Following my graduation from fellowship, I recently joined the University of Massachusetts Neurology Department as a faculty member in the Neurology Department and a co-director of epilepsy surgery program. I will be working cohesively with the epilepsy and neurosurgery team to expand the epilepsy surgery program and to introduce and implement the stereotactic EEG. I am hoping to use my training and experience to better serve the complex epilepsy patients in Central Massachusetts and the surrounding New England region.

Away from work, I am busy learning about the Boston area as my boyfriend and I just moved to the area. Together, we enjoy exploring new places, restaurants and all the culture Boston has to offer. In my free time, I also enjoy ballroom dancing and travelling to new and exciting locations around the world.

Ika Noviatwaty

I grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia and received my medical degree from Sun Yat Sen University of Medical Science, China. I later pursued neurology residency training in the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and served as the chief resident in my final year of training. My epilepsy fellowship training was at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, mainly focused on epilepsy surgery and continuous ICU EEG monitoring. My research interest has mainly been focused on seizure semiology and brain connectivity. In addition to clinical and research activity, I have also been actively involved in quality improvement projects.

Away from work, I am busy learning about the Boston area as my boyfriend and I just moved to the area. Together, we enjoy exploring new places, restaurants and all the culture Boston has to offer. In my free time, I also enjoy ballroom dancing and travelling to new and exciting locations around the world.

Ika Noviatwaty

WHO SUPPORTS US

Where can we find you when you’re not working? What’s your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?
Housework on Saturday mornings, but not before going to the gym, which is sort of a freedom! My favorite way to spend the weekend is to do a bit of reading fiction books, shopping, or to catch up on TV shows that I missed during the week. I hope to also start taking a variety of dance lessons.

Elizabeth Cyrus-Esther

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in a small town in Indiana along with my sisters, occasional pets, and a good mom and dad.

What would be impossible for you to give up?
In the past five years, I have given up lots of things, but I am glad to know that whatever state I am (in), there is NPR, and PBS.

Anything else you’d like to tell people about yourself?
I am very happy to be in the department of neurology. I am a secretary at heart and this so far, is fitting the bill! Thanks!

Who do I support?
I support all administrative needs of the attendings of the neurology department.

How long have I worked for the Department of Neurology:
I have worked only 6 days.

Where can you be found?
I can be found in room S5-708.

Official title: Senior Administrative Secretary
How can we contact you?
Tel. 508.856.6853
Email: Elizabeth.CyrusEsther@umassmemorial.org
Who do you support?
Neurology Research PI's
Drs. Daryl Bosco, John Landers, Fen-Biao Gao, Miguel Esteves, Robert Brown, Lawrence Hayward and their labs.
Additionally, anyone in Neurology working with grants/grant related research studies.

Who do you support?
Provide support to the Department of Neurology's Education Program

How long have you worked for the Department of Neurology?
27 years

Where can we find you?
SS-731

What is your Official Title?
Educational Programs Coordinator

How we contact you?
Phone: Ext. 63083
Email: Naomi.Nortrop@umassmemorial.org

List some important aspects of your job:
Compile and process clerkships, residency and fellowships.

Who do you support?
I support anyone in our department who needs Administrative Assistance.

How long have you worked for the Department of Neurology?
13 years

Where can we find you?
Room SS-708

What is your Official Title?
Senior Administrative Assistant

How we contact you?
Phone: (508) 334-6613
Email: Beth.Laperle@UMassmemorial.org

List some important aspects of your job:
I am the Front Desk Receptionist for this clinic.

Who do you support?
Provide support to the Department of Neurology's Education Program

How long have you worked for the Department of Neurology?
6 years

Where can we find you?
SS-731

What is your Official Title?
Educational Programs Coordinator

How we contact you?
Phone: Ext. 48173
Email: Lois.Holmes@umassmemorial.org

List some important aspects of your job:
Compile and process clerkships, residency and fellowships.

Who do you support?
Provide support to the Department of Neurology’s Education Program

How long have you worked for the Department of Neurology?
11 months

Where can we find you?
SS-710

What is your Official Title?
Operations Supervisor for Neurology, Renal Medicine & Geriatric Medicine

How we contact you?
Phone: 508-856-4604
Email: Tina.Pittman2@umassmemorial.org

List some important aspects of your job:
Oversees Administrative Assistants; Onboarding and Departure of Clinicians and Office Staff; On Call Schedule; Clinical Affiliations; Schedule Changes; IT requests, etc.

Who do you support?
Provide support to the Department of Neurology, focusing on both the Chair and Executive Vice Chair.

How long have you worked for the Department of Neurology?
1 year

Where can we find you?
SS-753

What is your Official Title?
Senior Executive Administrative Assistant

How we contact you?
Phone: 508-334-5989
Email: Sarah.Sierra@umassmed.edu

List some important aspects of your job:
Currently compile the department’s newsletter; faculty appointments; and promotions. Assist in the process of reappointments, credentialing and clinical privileges. Planning and executing department events, and implementing new procedures, for the department. Travel and calendars management for the Chair and Vice Chair. Answering phones and coordinating with patients when necessary, among other basic administrative duties.
As Chief Residents of Neurology, we welcome you to the Resident’s Corner! We extend you an invitation to meet our residents, their achievements, personal lives and families. Please join us in formally welcoming our new residents. We hope you will enjoy our section and continue to read about our adventures in future editions.

- Johana Helenius, M.D., Ph.D. - Chief Resident
- Yunis Mayasi, M.D., M.S. – Chief Resident

NEW FELLOWS

Ayman Al-Salaimeh
PGY - 5

Education: I did my medical school at Jordan university of science and technology between 2002-2006, I did two years of neurology residency at King Abdullah University hospital between 2009-2011. Finally, I completed Neurology residency at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences between 2011-2015
Birthplace: Saudia Arabia
Hobbies: Used to play Martial arts

Idanis Berrios Morales
PGY - 5

Birthplace: Puerto Rico
Hobbies: Traveling, dancing.

Breta Boots
PGY - 5

Education: I attended medical school at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia PA between 2007-2011, then 1 year of medical internship at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, PA from 2011-2012, followed by 3 years of neurology residency at University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester, MA from 2012-2015. I am currently completing a Clinical Neurophysiology fellowship at UMass, to be completed in June 2016.
Birthplace: Stroudsburg, PA
Hobbies: Swimming, traveling, skiing, reading, painting

Adalia Jun-O’Connell
PGY - 7

Education: I did my medical school at University of Massachusetts between 2005 to 2009, and I did six years of combined neurology and psychiatry residency at University of Massachusetts between 2009 to 2015. Finally, I am doing vascular neurology fellowship at University of Massachusestts between 2015 to 2016.
Birthplace: Seoul, South Korea
Hobbies: I like to spend time with my 3 month old daughter. I like to catch up on every smile, laughter, tears, and milestones that she goes through. Otherwise, you can find me at a local church, playing piano every other Sunday. Lately my hobby includes listening to Mozart with my baby.

If you need help putting anything together or moving, you can contact Chief Resident Dr. Mayasi Yunis Moving Services. He also does house calls.
Claudia Fallini

What path brought you here? After obtaining a PhD in Cell Biology from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, I moved to San Francisco to start a Post-Doc at the Gladstone Institutes, UCSF. Two years later, my mentor relocated his lab to UMMS, and I chose to give up the nice weather in California and move to Worcester. This allowed me to continue the work I started there, and that I really enjoy. I am a warm-weather person, but I was excited about the snow and that first winter did not disappoint me.

What are you most passionate about professionally? My research involves the use of patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells to model and study Frontotemporal Dementia. It’s not an easy task to work with these cells, but I enjoy a good challenge. I hope that my studies will contribute to finding a treatment to this and similar diseases.

What are you passionate about personally? What do you really enjoy? What can’t you stop talking about? I love travelling and trying new foods. But since my daughter was born (almost one year ago) I cannot stop taking about how great and fun she is, and how fast she is growing.

Where can we find you when you’re not working? What’s your favorite way to spend a weekend or a Sunday afternoon? Most likely at home playing with Emilia and my husband. We love to go out for walks and play with Emilia outside. And because Emilia loves to eat, we sometimes go out to try a new restaurant.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Coimbra, Portugal.

What would be impossible for you to give up? Chocolate.

How do you want to be remembered? As a person who did good science and worked very hard, but still always found time to see the fun in life, both during work and outside of it.

What are you passionate about personally? What do you really enjoy? What can’t you stop talking about?

I love travelling and trying new foods. But since my daughter was born (almost one year ago) I cannot stop taking about how great and fun she is, and how fast she is growing.

Where can we find you when you’re not working? What’s your favorite way to spend a weekend or a Sunday afternoon? Most likely at home playing with Emilia and my husband. We love to go out for walks and play with Emilia outside. And because Emilia loves to eat, we sometimes go out to try a new restaurant.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Coimbra, Portugal.

What would be impossible for you to give up? Chocolate.

How do you want to be remembered? As a person who did good science and worked very hard, but still always found time to see the fun in life, both during work and outside of it.
Meet Our Graduates

Gabriela Cristina Toro
I am a 4th year graduate student with Dr. Chris Mueller.  
Graduation Year: expected date May of 2017  
Birthplace: Quito-Ecuador  
Hobbies: Rock climbing, Drawing and painting, Teaching Spanish  
Children (Yes/No): No children

Maeve Tischbein
I am a Graduate Student in Daryl Bosco's lab; 4th year  
Graduation Year: Anticipated 2018  
Birthplace: Bath, Maine  
Hobbies: Hiking/camping, gardening, reading  
Children (Yes/No): No kids, although I do have a cat and a guinea pig that I treat like my children.

Dwijit Guhasaraka
I am a Graduate Student 2016 Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves  
Birthplace: Kolkata  
Hobbies: Acting, traveling  
Children: No children

MEET OUR GRADUATES

Gabriela Cristina Toro
I am a 4th year graduate student with Dr. Chris Mueller.  
Graduation Year: expected date May of 2017  
Birthplace: Quito-Ecuador  
Hobbies: Rock climbing, Drawing and painting, Teaching Spanish  
Children (Yes/No): No children

Maeve Tischbein
I am a Graduate Student in Daryl Bosco's lab; 4th year  
Graduation Year: Anticipated 2018  
Birthplace: Bath, Maine  
Hobbies: Hiking/camping, gardening, reading  
Children (Yes/No): No kids, although I do have a cat and a guinea pig that I treat like my children.

Dwijit Guhasaraka
I am a Graduate Student 2016 Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves  
Birthplace: Kolkata  
Hobbies: Acting, traveling  
Children: No children

NEURO BABY

Name: Andy  
DOB: 4/28/14  
Yubing Lu, PhD

Name: Matthieu  
DOB: 07/02/13  
Hélène Tran, PhD

Name: Emilia  
DOB: 12/17/2014  
Sandra Almeida, PhD

Name: Adam  
DOB: 12/08/15  
Ayman Al-Salaimeh, PhD

Name: Emma  
DOB: 04/28/14  
Claudia Fallini, PhD


Baqar Husaini, Van Cain, Meggan Novotny, Robert S. Levine, Majaz Moonis. Stroke rates decline yet burden of stroke remains high for African-Americans. APHA 11,2014

IF YOU MISSED IT!

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK LUNCH!

&

FACT: YOU WILL BE MISSED

A FAREWELL TO JOHN G. RYAN!

Transitions in Neurology

As of August, 2016, Dr. David Paydarfar will be the founding chair in the new Department of Neurology at Dell Medical School in Austin, Texas.

Happy Retirement Nancy!