

SUMMER 2023

NeuroNEXT

from the Departments of Neurological Sciences & Neurosurgery

Summer Greetings!

In this summer NeuroNEXT newsletter, we meet new faculty members and greet our next group of aspiring neurology and neurosurgery residents and fellows. We also bid adieu to our graduating residents and fellows, wishing them the best of luck in their new endeavors.

Members of the Great Plains IDeA-Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) continue their impactful work, along with network partners across the region and nation. Jerrod Anzalone, MS, and Emily Frankel, MPH, won awards for their research and community-driven work. The team has also been traveling to partner sites and conferences to advance research infrastructure, training, and discoveries to address unmet healthcare needs for all.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for multiple fall events including the Lewy Body Dementia and the Michael S. Heller Memorial Young-Onset Alzheimer's symposia, geared toward patients, families, and caregivers. Community outreach is essential to share knowledge, opportunities, and best practices for science-driven care.

We hope you enjoy this summer's newsletter. We have lots more recent news and views to report that we hope will make our next edition!



Matt Rizzo, MD, FAAN,
FANA
*Francis and Edgar Reynolds Professor
and Chair, Department of Neurological
Sciences*



Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD
*Nancy A. Keegan and Donald
R. Voelte, Jr. Professor and Chair,
Department of Neurosurgery*



Howard Fox, MD, PhD
*Senior Associate Dean of Research
and Development, College of
Medicine
Professor, Department of
Neurological Sciences*

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Welcome! New Faculty

Neurological Sciences



Meredith Frederick, MD, Physician/Adjunct Volunteer

How I fell in love with neurology: I first became interested in neurology while working as a certified nurse's aide before medical school. I felt most challenged and emotionally moved while working with people with neurologic diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's

disease and multiple sclerosis. The impact these diseases had on their daily lives and social interactions was so much greater than I saw elsewhere. After starting medical school, I found I loved the neurologic exam and localization. All these years later, I cannot imagine neurology not being a part of my life.

Three things people may not know about me:

- I teach Brazilian jiu jitsu and self-defense for women.
- I enjoy cooking.
- I live in Colorado so that I can be close to my family.



Bernd Fritsch, PhD, Professor

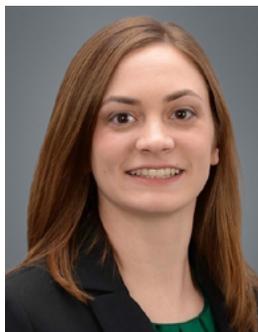
How I fell in love with neurology: I have been working in the ear development, its evolution and its connections from the brainstem for 35 years, I am still interested in the genetics of the ear and brainstem development and evolution.

Things people may not know

about me:

- I helped my wife to raise Sloughis, for which I was named 'Sloughiman'. My simple name was too complicated with a single vowel (Fritsch).
- For years I was a gymnast. Since my Achilles tendon was ruptured about 4 years ago, I am still exercising like before and I still work to improve my flexibility back to normal.
- This will be the last employment after two jobs at Germany and now three jobs at Creighton University (18 years), University of Iowa (15 years) and now UNMC (since July 2023).

- Matt Rizzo and I worked together closely at the University of Iowa, on a cluster of 14 scientists across five colleges to build an Aging Mind and Brain Initiative, then edited a book on the topic.



Monica Krause, MD, Assistant Professor

How I fell in love with neurology: I have always loved problem solving and puzzles. The neurologic exam and identification of neurologic diagnoses allowed me to combine these two passions. During my neurology residency, I was further drawn to patient care in the hospital and intensive care unit, which led

to pursuing a fellowship in neurocritical care. I appreciated the opportunity to sit down and speak with patients and their families in the hospital. Being able to help them through difficult times in their lives has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Three things people may not know about me:

- I enjoy long distance running.
- I love watching Husker sports, particularly Husker football.
- I am excited to be moving back to my hometown, Omaha.



Anthony J. Scalzo, MD, FACMT, FAAP, FAACT, Inaugural Director, Division of Neurotoxicology & Emergency Response

How I fell in love with neurology: Diagnosing and treating patients with Serotonin Toxicity (formerly known as Serotonin Syndrome) and its effects on the CNS and PNS as a toxic manifestation of numerous drugs and toxicants.

Things people may not know about me:

- I have taught more than 15,000 youth to not start smoking and prevent nicotine addiction by performing positive lyric rap aka poetry. As far as I know, I am the only Italian, full professor, medical toxicologist, born in Brooklyn, Christian rapper in the world.

- I have made more than 700 custom mixtapes with song lists for my adolescent and adult patients over the last six years to lift their spirits and remind them how important they are by using their favorite music and artists (clean lyrics only). I personally design jewel case covers with the patients favorite color, sports, hobbies, musical instruments, artists, etc. Our master's degree trained music therapists at my former institution say I should have a degree Honoris Causa in Music Therapy.
- Although raised Catholic, I study many religions and faiths and can quote scripture from not only the Christian Bible but also the Quran and Hindu teachings of the Sacred Chakras.
- I played basketball as a teenager in high school and college on the neighborhood park courts of Brooklyn, New York with Matt Rizzo. He is taller than me, but I can pass better. We got together with two Brooklyn friends and played basketball on a neighborhood court in Brockton, Mass., near Boston, the day of my wedding. I don't remember the score, but I definitely won because I married my dear wife, Mary!



Jieqiong Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor

How I fell in love with medical imaging and machine learning: Coming from a computational background, I always ask myself what I can do to benefit people's lives. When I first discovered the field of medical imaging, I was immediately

fascinated by its vital role in disease diagnosis. With the advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, I quickly realized the immense power of these technologies in the field of medical imaging. By leveraging machine learning and medical imaging, we can develop highly accurate models that enable early detection, predict disease prognosis, and optimize treatment outcomes, ultimately leading to personalized medicine and improved patients' lives. My passion for the intersection of medical imaging and machine learning has deepened as I continue to explore new ways to apply these technologies and positively impact people's health.

Three things people may not know about me:

- I love watching women's volleyball and have played the sport during my high school and undergraduate years.
- I am passionate about cooking dishes from different cultures.
- I practice meditation regularly to rejuvenate myself.

Congratulations to our graduate residents and fellows!

The Department of Neurological Sciences (DONS) graduates celebrated on June 1 at Champions Run in Omaha. Guests were provided appetizers and drinks, followed by presentations featuring each of the graduates. Families and friends gathered for a wonderful night celebrating great achievements. We wish them the best in their future pursuits:

Neurological Sciences – Residents

Kiley Cameron, MD, Epilepsy fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin

Erin Dennis, MD, Epilepsy fellowship, UNMC

Ismail Fahad, MD, Epilepsy fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin

Jennifer Shaw, MD, Stroke fellowship, UNMC

Daniel Zhou, MD, Epilepsy fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

Neurological Sciences – Fellows

Salman Assad, MD, Stroke fellowship, UNMC

Maria Moreno-Escobar, MD, Attending physician, Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, West Virginia University

Joshua Matyi, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita

Krystian Solis, MD, Joint academic position, University of New Mexico Hospital & the Raymond G. Murphy Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Neurosurgery – Residents

Adam Grooms, MD, Physician, Neurosurgery of South Kansas City Medical Group

Collin Liu, MD, Cerebrovascular fellowship, University of Texas - Houston and then a one-year endovascular fellowship

The Department of Neurosurgery residency graduation dinner was held Saturday, June 10 at Gallery 1516 in Omaha.

From left to right: William Thorell, MD, Adam Grooms, MD, Collin Liu, MD, and Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD



Welcome! New Residents & Fellows

Neurological Sciences – Residents



Arenn Carlos, MD, is from Milan, Italy and attended Università degli Studi di Pavia Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia and joins us from Mayo Clinic.



Hannah Safranek-Neylon, MD, is a native Nebraskan and attended UNMC.



Mitchell Floura, MD, is from Minnesota and attended University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Mitchell just got married!



Xiaohan Sharon Peng, MBBS, is from Changsha, China and attended Nanjing Medical University in Nanjing, China. Sharon spent the last year participating in clinical rotations all over the U.S.



Mark Jedras, DO, is from Wisconsin and attended Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He couples matched with his wife, May Li, who is going into dermatology.



Haley Riley, DO, is from Duncan, Oklahoma. and attended both Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Mathias Maisenbacher, MD, is from Heidelberg, Germany and attended medical school at Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza' Facoltà di Farmacia e Medicina in Rome, Italy.

Neurological Sciences – Fellows



Erin Dennis, MD, attended medical school at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She then completed her residency this summer at UNMC and will now be starting her Epilepsy Fellowship here.



Jennifer Shaw, MD, attended medical school at Creighton University School of Medicine. She then completed her residency this summer at UNMC and will now be starting her Vascular Neurology Fellowship also at UNMC.



Naveed Khan, MD, is from Pakistan. He attended medical school at Taishan Medical University in China and completed his residency at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences. He will be starting his Movement Disorders Fellowship here at UNMC.



Chelsie Thompson, DO, is from Colorado and attended medical school at Rocky Vista University. She completed her residency at HealthONE Swedish Medical Center Neurology and will be starting her MS Fellowship here at UNMC.

Neurosurgery – Residents



Susan Greni, MD, attended medical school at UNMC.



Andrew Schmidt, MD, attended medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

DONS faculty visit UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences

The DONS faculty had an inspiring tour of the Weill UCSF Neurosciences Institute programs, people, operations, and strategies on May 30-31.

Meeting extensively with key leadership, including Andy Josephson (pictured below) and Eddie Chang, the leaders of neurology and neurosurgery, and Steve Hauser, the institute founder. The tour showed functional space without silos and a model for a creative, collaborative, connected headquarters in Nebraska that spans neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, pain, and more.

At the visit, faculty members gleaned new ideas for creating a unique institute that addresses the pressing mind and brain healthcare needs of Nebraska communities, through a dynamic network of neuroscience experts united to deliver world-class clinical care informed by cutting-edge research. DONS is used to recognizing and treating challenging problems that go undiagnosed elsewhere, as a regional and national destination, aspiring to complete the most complex evaluations within days. Our goal is to meet pressing needs for neuroscience care for all, everywhere, including rural and urban underserved.

A key topic was the need to invest in current and future workforce with funds for training programs, faculty development, and, especially, distinguished chairs and professorships. Investments in people ensures retention of existing talent while attracting more leading experts to advance world-class programs to enhance the care and bolster our capabilities as a premier neurosciences institute and hub for training the next generation of healthcare leaders for Nebraska and the nation.

Crafting a neurosciences institute of the highest caliber will propel the world-class research and extraordinary care already available at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine — building on the foundation of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Davis Global Center for Health Security, and Catalyst. A model such as this would be self-sustaining, highly sought, and, most importantly, improve mind and brain health care for all Nebraskans.



Dinner in San Francisco on May 30 (clockwise from lower left): Daryl Gress, MD, UCSF host Andy Josephson, MD, Jon Nguyen, Jen Bartholomew, Kati Cordts, PhD, and Matt Rizzo, MD

Department of Neurosurgery Updates

New grants

Systems Genetics Approach to Intracranial Aneurysms

Principal Investigator:
Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD

Funding Source:
NIH R01NS105675-04

Intracranial Neurophysiological Signatures of Fear and Anxiety in Humans

Principal Investigator:
Josue Avecillas Chasin, MD

Funding Source:
NIH R01MH124761

New contracts

A Multicenter Observational Study of GammaTile Surgically Targeted Radiation Therapy (STaRT) in Intracranial Brain Neoplasms

Principal Investigator:
Michele Aizenberg, MD

Funding Source:
GT Medical Technologies

Updates from the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Team

UNMC-led COVID research team wins rural health article of the year

by UNMC Strategic Communications

A nationwide research team led by UNMC investigators has been recognized by the *Journal of Rural Health* for its article documenting higher COVID-19 hospitalization and mortality rates in rural America.

The journal awarded the team's submission as its 2023 Article of the Year, commending its "vital and timely research." The research team was honored at the National Rural Health Association's annual meeting¹ in San Diego on May 16-19.

The research team's study², published in January 2023, used the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) to document COVID-19's impact on rural areas. Led by Jerrod Anzalone, a clinical research informatics specialist in the UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences and PhD candidate in biomedical informatics, the investigator team assessed more than 1 million patients from 44 U.S. hospital systems diagnosed with COVID-19.



Jerrod Anzalone, MS

Said Anzalone, "This study highlights the need for continued understanding of the underlying origins of the growing health divide in rural America. UNMC is at the forefront of efforts to leverage real-world evidence to best understand challenges faced in rural America."

The N3C Data Enclave is a secure platform through which harmonized clinical data provided by contributing member healthcare institutions are

stored. The enclave includes demographic and clinical characteristics of patients who have been tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19 and further information about the strategies and outcomes of

treatments for those suspected or confirmed to have the virus. It represents the largest limited data set gathered in U.S. history.

Along with UNMC, the N3C Rural Health Domain Team³ includes participants from more than 15 institutions.

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR, a UNMC-led collaboration between nine regional institutions to advance clinical and translational research in Nebraska, is among the organizations supporting the effort.

Said Matt Rizzo, MD, principal investigator of the Great Plains IDeA-CTR and chair of the UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences, "We're deeply committed to care for all, everywhere, including our underserved rural community members, who have suffered disproportionately from the pandemic and its aftermath. Our Department of Neurological Sciences is proud of Jerrod's work and leadership in addressing the great emerging burden on mind and brain health associated with the SARS-CoV-2 infection that causes COVID."

UNMC also is involved in a pilot project among ten academic medical centers to expand the N3C beyond COVID-19. The pilot, which runs through the end of 2023, has three research arms focused on COPD, renal disease and Alzheimer's disease — the cutting-edge care and clinical trials of which are centered in the Department Neurological Sciences.

1 <https://www.ruralhealth.us/blogs/ruralhealthvoices/april-2023/nrha-announces-2023-rural-health-awardees,-top-jrh>

2 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jrh.12689>

3 <https://covid.cd2h.org/rural-health>

Emily Frankel, MPH, receives campus-wide award

Emily was recognized on April 27 at the ITEACH Student Awards Ceremony presented by the Office of Community Engagement, the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office, and the UNMC Student Senate.



Emily Frankel, MPH

Emily's recognition stemmed from her community-driven work within the Great Plains IDeA-CTR and the Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN).

This year, Emily developed the Great Plains Primary Care PBRN Medical Student Summer Research Program, connecting incoming and first-year medical students with summer research across the PBRN network. She saw a need for personnel and resources at our PBRN sites and recognized the need for workforce development in rural communities. Additionally, Emily is working collaboratively with investigators at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to bring innovative community programs to UNMC, such as

Boot Camp Translation, Community Liaisons, and Immersion Training. These programs will provide an innovative roadmap to address health disparities and increase the recruitment of minorities in research through mindful practices.

Emily's work has contributed to the betterment of UNMC through excellence in community service, leadership, and accomplishments. She pushes the envelope and contributes innovative, cutting-edge ideas that meet and exceed the needs of the Great Plains IDeA-CTR. She is passionate about quality improvement and implementing best practices through the CTR channels.

Central IDeA States Regional Meeting

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR participated in the Central IDeA States Regional Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, June 7 – 9, 2023.

The meeting focused on IDeA-CTR, INBRE, and COBRE programs across the central region, including the Dakotas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Regional and national leaders discussed future opportunities, scientific advancement, and shared activities across the IDeA community. Drs. Matt Rizzo and Kati Cordts presented on the importance of innovative hospital-university partnerships to enhance clinical and translational research.

 A full overview of the meeting is available at k-inbre.org/pages/k-inbre_regional_info

Kuan-Hua Chen, PhD, Receives Nebraska Bankers Association Equipment Grant

This grant was for a BioPac system totaling \$13,999. Dr. Chen says, "The grant will help advance the MEG data collection at UNMC by adding the recording of autonomic nervous system responses. These measures will allow researchers and clinicians to look into brain, mind and body interactions, and their implications to health and various disease conditions."

DONS Assistant Professor, Valia Gumenyuk, PhD, is Co-Investigator of the project.



Nebraska Medicine/UNMC MAHA Community Race Event

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients, care partners, friends, and others in the community gathered at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village on May 20th for the MS Strong Community Race Event hosted by the Nebraska Medicine/UNMC Multiple Sclerosis at Home Access (MAHA) team.

The MAHA program is a comprehensive, patient centered service for individuals living with MS and other demyelinating diseases with disability in our community. The inaugural event was successful with over 400 participants, volunteers, and sponsors. In total, the event raised \$50,000 with priority funding directed toward exercise scholarships for those served in the program to MS Forward Gym and Horizon Spine PT. The MAHA program's long-term vision is to start an MS Community Day Achievement Program, a very costly and time intensive endeavor.

Dr. Kathleen Healey started the MAHA program in 2013. Race directors, Renee Stewart, APRN-NP, DNP, Aubrie Lindner, MAHA Operations Manager, and Greg Costello, Administrative Associate, continue to bring Dr. Healey's vision to life by promoting the MAHA program in our community and through this philanthropic event.

"We have heard from several individuals who have been part of the MS Community for years that there was something unique about our event, specifically appreciating an unmatched sense of community that day," said Aubrie Lindner. "We are humbled by the outpouring of support and look forward to an even bigger event next Spring."

To learn more about the program, please visit nebraskamed.com/neurological-care/multiple-sclerosis/maha



Event Coordinator, Renee Stewart APRN-NP, DNP welcoming participants with opening remarks



Event Coordinator, Aubrie Lindner greeting guests

Updates from the Multiple Sclerosis Division

The Multiple Sclerosis Division has continued to contribute to the evolving world of medicine through publications, presentations, editorial reviewers, and clinical research during the 2022 – 2023 academic year. The MS faculty successfully published 12 articles in various medical journals, 15 conference presentations, and six clinical trials in relation to Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis Fellowship

Nebraska Medicine/UNMC would like to congratulate Dr. Krystian Solis on graduating from our Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology Fellowship. Dr. Solis is our 3rd trained fellow from our MS Fellowship program. After graduation, Dr. Solis will return to his home state of New Mexico. He will be dually employed with New Mexico Veterans Administration Health Care System and University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He will have a general neurology and multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology practice. We wish Dr. Solis all the success in growing his practice. He will be missed from our clinic by our physicians and clinical staff.

As we say goodbye to Dr. Solis, our Multiple Sclerosis Division welcomes Dr. Chelsie Thompson. Dr. Thompson completed her neurology residency from HealthOne Swedish Neurology in Englewood, Colorado this past June. Dr. Thompson began her MS Fellowship training July 1, 2023.

MS Faculty published articles:

- Gupta N, Shirani A, Arcot Jayagopal L, Piccione E, Hartman E, Zabad RK. Anti-Neurofascin Antibodies Associated with White Matter Disease of the Central Nervous System: A Red Flag or a Red Herring? Accepted. *Brain Sciences Journal*. August 16, 2022.
- Pennington P, Weinstock-Guttman B, Kolb C, Jakimovski D, Sacca K, Benedict RHB, Eckert S, Stecker M, Lizarraga A, Dwyer MG, Schumacher CB, Bergsland N, Picco P, Bernitsas E, Zabad RK, Pardo G, Negroski D, Belkin M, Hojnacki D, Zivadinov R. Communicating the relevance of neurodegeneration and brain atrophy of multiple sclerosis patients: patient, provider and researcher perspectives. *Journal of Neurology*. Feb 2023.
- Dennis, E; Hartman, E; Piccione, E; Cortes-Penfield, N; Thaisetthawatkul, P. Acute and chronic demyelinating neuropathies following COVID-19 vaccination: a report of four cases. *Journal of Clinical Neuromuscular Disease*, March 2023.
- Jin J, Ge W, Struck AF, Fernandes MB, Hong S, An S, Fatima S, Herlopian A, Karakis I, Halford JJ, Ng MC, Johnson EL, Appavu BL, Sarkis RA, Osman G, Kaplan PW, Dhaker MB, Arcot Jayagopal L, Sheikh Z, Taraschenko O, Schmitt S, Haider HA, Kim JA, Swisher CB, Gaspard N, Cervenka MC, Rodriguez Ruiz AA, Woo Lee J, Tabaeizadeh M, Gilmore EJ, Nordstrom K, Yoo JY, Holmes MG, Herman ST, Willians JA, Pathmanathan J, Nascimento FA, Fan Z, Nasiri S, Shafi MM, Cash SS, Hoch DB, Cole AJ, Roenthal ES, Zafer SF, Sun J, Westover MB. Interrater Reliability of Expert Electroencephalographers Identifying Seizures and Rhythmic and Periodic Patterns in EEGs.
- Aladawi M, Crespo D, Xu R, Zabad RK*, Vuppala AA. Bilateral longitudinally extensive optic perineuritis post-COVID-19 presenting as “idiopathic” intracranial hypertension: A case report. *Clinical & Experimental Neuroimmunology*. 2023 March.
- Zhou D, Darwish M, Ford JB, Koh S, Rathore GS, Zabad RK. Pediatric CLIPPERS? Think again!. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*. June 2023.

MS Faculty Conference Presentations:

- Pennington P, Weinstock-Guttman B, Kolb C, Jakimovski D, Sacca K, Benedict R, Eckert S, Stecker M, Lizarraga A, Dwyer MG, Schumacher CB, Bergsland N, Picco P, Bernitsas E, Zabad RK, Pardo G, Negroski D, Belkin M, Hojnacki D, Zivadinov R. Communicating the Relevance of Neurodegeneration and Brain Atrophy to Multiple Sclerosis Patients: Patient, Provider and Research Perspectives. Submitted. 38th Congress of ECTRIMS. October 2022. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Arcot Jayagopal J. MS Times Machine: The Story of Multiple Sclerosis in the 19th & 20th Century Through the Eyes of the Times Reader. 2023 AAN Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts.

- Shirani A, Roat J, Arcot Jayagopal L, Dafney N, Stuve O, Cross A. Acute pancreatitis in a patient with MOG antibody-associated disease treated with ocrelizumab: a case report and literature review.
- Zabad RK, Thedinger B, Solis K, Venegas C, Dennis E, Piccione E, Westerhuis B, Jayagopal LA. Nitinol in Medical Devices and Delayed Type Hypersensitivity. ACTRIMS Forum. February 2023. San Diego, California.
- Zhou DJ, Darwish M, Ford J, Patel S, Koh S, Rathore G, Zabad RK. A Propos of an Adolescent with Familial Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis Presenting as CLIPPERS. ACTRIMS Forum. February 2023. San Diego. California.
- Solis K, Zabad RK. Posterior Spinal Cord Infarct: Thinking Outside the Box. ACTRIMS Forum. February 2023. San Diego, California
- The 8th Annual Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) Forum, San Diego, CA, February 23-25, 2023.
- Dennis E, Hartman E, Cortes-Penfield N, Piccione E, Thaisetthawatkul P. Acute and Chronic Demyelinating Neuropathies following COVID-19 Vaccination: A Report of Four Cases (P9-13.008) Neurology May

2022, 98 (18 Supplement) 972. American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington. April 2023.

- Zabad RK, Thedinger B, Solis K, Venegas C, Dennis E, Piccione E, Westerhuis B, Jayagopal LA. Nitinol in Medical Devices: Not so Innocuous. 2023 AAN Annual Meeting. April 2023. Boston, Massachusetts.
- Zhou D, Darwish M, Ford J, Patel S, Koh S, Rathore G, Zabad RK. Pediatric Clippers? Think Again!. 2023 AAN Annual Meeting, April 2023. Boston, Massachusetts.
- Solis K, Zabad RK. Posterior Spinal Cord Infarct: Thinking Outside the Box. 2023 AAN Annual Meeting. April 2023. Boston Massachusetts.

Our faculty has also taken on various leadership roles on regional and national levels. Dr. Rana Zabad was promoted to Tenure Professorship. Dr. Rana Zabad accepted a reviewer editor for *Frontiers Journal* and is a member of the editorial board for Brain Science/MDPI Publisher. Dr. Elizabeth Hartman was elected as American Academy of Neurology General Neurology Section Chief through 2025. Dr. Afsaneh Shirani was appointed to the Nebraska Medical Association Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force as well as Dean's Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusions College of Medicine at UNMC.

Omaha barista is a national champion

"Isaiah Sheese knows what some people see. He's not a newcomer to barista competitions, though. Before this year, he qualified for several; finishing as high as fifth place. Then, earlier this spring, after adjusting his strategy, Isaiah earned scores described as "astounding" and claimed first place and the title of U.S. Barista Champion."

Isaiah is the spouse of DONS faculty and Neuropsychology Division Director, Aimi Nelson Sheese, PhD.

To see the full story from local 3 News, please visit [3newsnow.com/rebound/positively-the-heartland/omaha-barista-isaiah-sheese-a-national-champion-to-compete-internationally](https://www.3newsnow.com/rebound/positively-the-heartland/omaha-barista-isaiah-sheese-a-national-champion-to-compete-internationally)

Isaiah also came in fourth place in the World Coffee Championship.

To see more visit [omaha.com/life-entertainment/local/food-drink/omaha-barista-places-fourth-in-world-coffee-championships](https://www.omaha.com/life-entertainment/local/food-drink/omaha-barista-places-fourth-in-world-coffee-championships)

Upcoming Events

Lewy Body Dementia Inaugural Conference

for patients and their families/care partners

Wednesday, Sept. 27 | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Scott Conference Center
6450 Pine St | Omaha, NE 68106

Register for in-person: <https://bit.ly/41ZZJ3d> (starting August 1)

OR Register for online Zoom Webinar: <https://bit.ly/41Z3tSn> (now open)

SAVE THE DATE: Parkinson's Disease Conference

for patients and their families/care partners

Wednesday, Nov. 1 | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Embassy Suites La Vista Hotel and Conference Center

Event page: <https://bit.ly/3NT46rL>

SAVE THE DATE: Michael S. Heller Memorial Young-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Conference

for patients and their families/care partners

Saturday, Nov. 4 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
Room 12101, UNMC Campus

Follow the events calendar on our website at [unmc.edu/neurologicalsciences](https://www.unmc.edu/neurologicalsciences) for more information on these and other events.



University of Nebraska Medical Center
Department of Neurological Sciences
988440 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-8440

If you have any news or upcoming events that you would like featured in the next edition of the *NeuroNExT UNMC* newsletter, please send the information to sallie.weathers@unmc.edu



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