

SPRING 2024

# NeuroNEXT

from the Departments of Neurological Sciences & Neurosurgery

## Welcome Spring!

Leo Tolstoy observed that “spring is a time for plans and progress” (in *Anna Karenina*, 1878). In the spirit of this explosive, verdant season, we bring growing updates from our departments of neurological sciences and neurosurgery, and the neurosciences!

Neurology will be welcoming new faculty including a vascular neurologist, a neuro-ophthalmologist, a neurohospitalist, and a researcher. We’re excited to welcome this talented group to our team, with more coming this summer.

The start of 2024 saw our clinicians and researchers travel to build strong connections with national leaders and highlight their innovative work in Nebraska.

Neurologists travelled — several to Washington, D.C. for “Neurology on the Hill” and several across Nebraska for 7-12 graders through a 4-H virtual field trip program. Dr. Rizzo met new NIH Director Monica Bertagnoli, MD, in person, in her

office, to discuss biomedical data science and modernizing the NIH data resource ecosystems. Other meetings included the National Institute of Aging Office of Data Resources and Analytics, National Institute of General Medical Studies, National Center for Translational Science Institutes, and a visit to the University of Utah.

The Multiple Sclerosis team will be traveling. Two posters were selected for the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis (CMSC) Conference in Nashville, Tenn. The MS team is also planning the second annual MS Strong Community Race Event on May 4, 2024 here in Omaha.

*cont. pg. 3*



Matthew Rizzo, MD, FAAN  
*Frances and Edgar Reynolds Professor and Chair*  
Department of Neurological Sciences



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



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

## In This Issue

- 2 Welcome New Faculty & Staff
- 3 Neurosurgery Updates
- 4 Building Strong Connections with National Health Leaders
- 6 Continued Opportunities to Advance Medical Discoveries
- 6 Analyzing Massive Amounts of Omics Data
- 7 Awards & Publications
- 9 PTSD Clinical Trial
- 10 New Education Corner
- 11 What’s Going On in My Brain?
- 12 Resident Appreciation Week
- 13 Intramurals
- 14 Global Burden of Neurological Disease
- 15 Save the Date! Upcoming Events

# Welcome New Faculty & Staff!

## Neurological Sciences



### **Dmitry Balian, MD, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Balian is a graduating chief resident of the Department of Neurological Sciences (DONS) and will be joining the neuro-ophthalmology team.

#### **Three things people may not know about me:**

- I won a bronze medal in an International Academic competition in biology in high school.
- I ran a full marathon in Reykjavik, Iceland.
- I do not know how to swim.



### **Kiley Cameron, MD, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Cameron is a former resident of the DONS and is completing a fellowship in epilepsy at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She joins the DONS as a neurohospitalist.

#### **Three things people may not know:**

- I love National Parks! Wildlife viewing is my favorite part (bear and moose sightings especially!), but I also enjoy camping, hiking and rafting. I am the happiest by the mountains, red rocks, and the trees.
- Rescue animals are a big part of my life. I volunteered in rescues and fostered dogs before and during medical school. I've worked with many abused animals and the rehabilitation is difficult but rewarding.
- I've seen more bands live than I can count over the years — I love a good music festival and traveling to see my favorite bands.



### **Meng Niu, PhD, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Niu joined the DONS as an Assistant Professor. He is a former Instructor in the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy at UNMC, and was a member of the Bioinformatics and Systems Biology university-wide core. Dr. Niu's current research interests include better understanding of immune system interactions in the

brain, in the context of drug abuse or HIV infection, using single-cell RNAseq, ATACseq, and spatial data.

Three things people may not know about me:

- I'm a foodie and a good cook.
- I love traveling – anywhere close to the water.
- I love outdoor activities – skiing, hiking, biking, fishing, etc.



### **Jennifer Shaw, MD, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Shaw is a former resident and graduating fellow of the DONS. She will join the vascular neurology division and neurohospitalists, with interests in intracerebral hemorrhage, as well as stroke in cancer, autoimmune disease, and in young adults.

#### **Three things people may not**

**know:**

- I was a college instructor prior to being a physician. I loved it!
- Yoga is my favorite hobby. I have been practicing for more than eight years.
- My favorite food is a perfectly ripe pear. There is nothing better.

# Updates from Neurosurgery

Welcome Spring from pg. 1

Neurosurgery Chairman Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD, has been elected Secretary of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). Stephen Gliske, PhD, designed a new course for neuroscientists and is excited to grow the course.

We feature updates including a new development award from Anna Dunaevsky, PhD, and a publication in *Epilepsia* from Olga Taraschenko, MD, PhD. We also introduce a new “Education Corner” section intended to provide the news from our Residency Program. While we continue to see our faculty and graduate students excel, we also are inspired by UNMC High School Alliance student Jeremy Robinson and his 2024 Metropolitan Science Engineering award.

Information is provided on a clinical trial focused on the safety and efficacy of Cannabidiol (CBD) for Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

We continue to move our research forward, educate our next generation of clinicians and researchers, and support the community of Nebraska. We hope you enjoy this spring edition of our *NeuroNEXt* newsletter!

## Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD, Chairman of UNMC Department of Neurosurgery, selected to serve as Secretary of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS).

Founded in 1931 as the Harvey Cushing Society, the AANS is a scientific and educational association with more than 12,000 members worldwide.



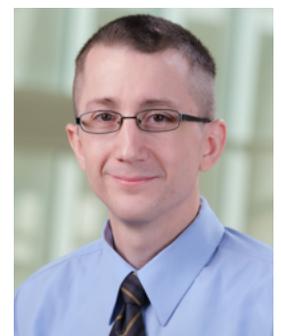
Fellows of the AANS are board-certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the Mexican Council of Neurological Surgery. The AANS advances the specialty of neurological surgery through education, research, advocacy, and outcomes

science to promote the highest quality of patient care.

Dr. Abosch’s three year term as secretary begins at the AANS Annual Meeting in May. Dr. Abosch also serves as the chair for the AANS Diversity Committee.

## Stephen Gliske, PhD, designs new course for neuroscientists

“NSC 913 Datascience for Neuroscientists” is a new course designed by neurosurgery associate professor Stephen Gliske, PhD. The course currently has eight students enrolled from three different research groups. Thus far, students have learned about the general principles of data science and best practices in coding. Later topics will include a variety of advanced machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, and the course will end with a capstone project in which students will apply what they have learned to their own research.



Stephen Gliske, PhD

Learn more about the course at <https://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/course-descriptions/nsc/>.



*Drs. Matt Rizzo and Monica Bertagnoli at her office in Maryland.*

# Building Strong Connections with **National Health Science Leaders**

Matt Rizzo, MD, was invited to meet new NIH Director Monica Bertagnoli, MD, at her office in Bethesda, Maryland, to discuss new opportunities with NIH leadership in biomedical data science on coordinating and modernizing the NIH data resource ecosystem, advancing a diverse data science workforce, and strategic partnering to develop and disseminate advanced technologies and methods.

In line with our UNMC/Nebraska Medicine neurosciences vision and our NIH Great Plains IDeA-CTR network, data from the care of individuals, and from biomedical and basic

research, inform our understanding of biological mechanisms and targets for new diagnostic technologies, therapies, and cures. This followed up on an earlier meeting with

*cont. pg. 5*



*From left to right; Frank Bogatz, Mike Hrnčirik, Amy Carson, MPA, LuAnn Larson, RN, Serena Gaines, MA, Katien Penas, MHA, Charles Miller, MBA, Matt Lunning, DO, Matt Rizzo, MD, and Kati Cordts, PhD*

*National Health Science Leaders from pg. 4*

Director Bertagnolli; Dr. Susan Gregurick, director of the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy; Dr. Michael Ash, president and chief Operating Officer of Nebraska Medicine; and Dr. Rizzo.

The egalitarian idea is to rally health systems around a novel Patient Trust Model to increase data quality and reduce burden on participants in supporting research data collaborations with better process transparency, healthcare data dissemination, informed consent, data security and privacy, accountability and governance, and engagement of patients in all our communities, wherever they live. Such efforts can redefine how patient data can help solve problems nationwide, starting with cancer as a use case, and the neurosciences, including aging and Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, more than 3 billion patients worldwide had a neurological condition in 2021, with astronomical effects on chronic disability, suffering, and lives lost. Mental health and addiction, cardiometabolic, and other conditions can also benefit from this approach.

Our multidisciplinary teams at UNMC embrace a learning health systems approach, leveraging modern organizational practices and analytics, including AI (artificial intelligence) to ensure

that our academic institution and networks complete rigorous, impactful research more efficiently, with maximal individual and community benefit. Directly aligning with the NIH Director's goals, we are working to connect neurosciences research with primary care to optimize neurology patient outcomes, overcome barriers to research access faced by underrepresented communities, use our electronic health record (EHR) to recruit and consent people into studies — in step with enhanced data interoperability across regional EHRs — and a practice-based research network (PBRN) comprising about 100 sites across Nebraska.

This built on our January 30-31 visit to the University of Utah, leveraged by colleagues Drs. Rusty McCulloh and Chris Malone of Children's Nebraska, with participants from neurological sciences including Drs. Kati Cordts and Matt Rizzo. We are collaborating to promote research capacity, efficiency, discovery, translation with innovative study designs that address common health issues, and feedback to improve system processes and to rapidly disseminate evidence to guide decision-making and policy, including in neurosciences.

# Continued opportunities to advance medical discoveries

Mrs. Julie Ditter, DONS administrator, attended the U.S. National Neurology Chairs (Sacco) summit in Chicago on March 17 – 18, 2024. This included a majority of U.S. academic neurology department chairs and many of their administrators. Dr. Rizzo helped organize the summit, spoke on AI applications in academic neurology, and lead sessions on strategies for advancing the neurology research mission.

Other impactful meetings included a March 25, 2024, meeting with the National Institute of Aging (NIA) Office of Data Resources and Analytics (ODRA) team on big data on neurodegenerative disease. ODRA was formed in 2021 to enhance research on aging and AD/ADRD

(Alzheimer's disease and related dementias) — through better infrastructure and services to facilitate data access and analyses.

Dr. Rizzo represented national Clinical and Translational Research (CTRs) groups in another March 25 meeting, with NIH's National Institute of General Medical Studies (NIGMS) Director, Dr. John Lorsch, and National Center for Advancing Translation Science (NCATS), and Clinical and Translation Science Institute (CTSI) directors. This group discussed how NIGMS and NCATS can powerfully leverage each other's work on behalf of U.S. medical discovery and cures.



*Julie Ditter and Drs. Rizzo and Torres (of Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience Institute) at the National Neurology Chairs (Sacco) summit*

# Analyzing massive amounts of omics data

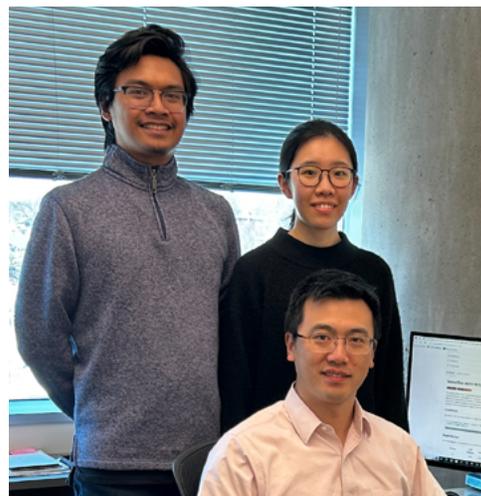
*Howard Fox, MD, PhD*

The Fox lab has long used “omic” (large comprehensive examination of genes, proteins, and small molecules) techniques in their research. These have led to a number of important findings on neurological disorders. With advancement in technology, the amount of data generated in these studies has increased exponentially. These massive amounts of data require great skill and expertise to analyze, as well as the use of high-performance computer clusters. With the advent of the ability to do omic-scale on single cells, either isolated from tissue or within the tissue itself, we found ourselves with massive amounts of data and a need for those with the ability to properly analyze and interpret this information.

To address this need, we built an outstanding group of analysts. Led by Meng Niu, PhD, recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in DONS, this group

includes Xiaoke Xu, a graduate student, and Moses Apostle, an intern in our post-baccalaureate neuroscience program. In addition to our research projects here at UNMC, their expertise has been sought after by others, and we have active collaborations with scientists at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Temple University, Drexel University, the San Diego Biomedical Research Institute, and the University of Heidelberg. Many of these collaborations have been supported by active grant funding.

We look forward to more interactions with the machine learning/artificial intelligence faculty, including Dr. Jieqiong Wang in DONS, the scientists in Neurosurgery, and others to be recruited as part of the cluster hire in this area. This expertise can transcend the omic work and move into other aspects of translational and clinical research.



# Awards & Publications



Anna Dunaevsky, PhD

## Anna Dunaevsky, PhD, receives Autism Research Program Idea Development Award

Sleep impairments are a clear deficit in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Impaired sleep not only affects the quality of life of individuals with ASD and their caretakers but also has been shown to be detrimental for brain development and may contribute to cognitive and sensory impairments associated with ASD.

Understanding the mechanisms that underlie sleep impairments is therefore critical.

The proposed study is the first to link ASD sleep deficiency and altered cortical astrocyte calcium activity using the *Fmr1* mutant mice, animal models for Fragile X syndrome, a leading known genetic cause of ASD. Our short-term goal is to understand the contribution of astrocytes to sleep impairments in ASD. Upon the

completion of this project, titled “The Role of Astrocyte in Sleep Impairments in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD),” we will have a comprehensive understanding of 1) the altered sleep architecture and homeostasis in the *Fmr1* KO mouse across development and the contribution of astrocytic Fragile X mental retardation protein (FMRP) to sleep impairments, 2) how astrocyte  $Ca^{2+}$  signaling presents throughout sleep/wake cycles in *Fmr1* KO mouse, and 3) the causal relationship between impaired astrocyte  $Ca^{2+}$  signaling and sleep impairments in FXS. These studies will bring us closer to our long-term goal of identifying astrocyte-specific therapies for treatment of sleep impairments associated with ASD.



Olga Taraschenko, MD, PhD

## Olga Taraschenko, MD, PhD, has paper published in *Epilepsia*

Dr. Taraschenko, along with co-authors H. Fox, E. Eldridge, P. Heliso, F. Al-Saleem, S. Dessain, G. Casale, G. Willcockson, K. Anderson, W. Wang, R. Dingledine published their paper “Myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88-mediated signaling is critical for the generation of seizures and cognitive impairment in anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis” in the peer reviewed journal *Epilepsia*.

# Awards & Publications

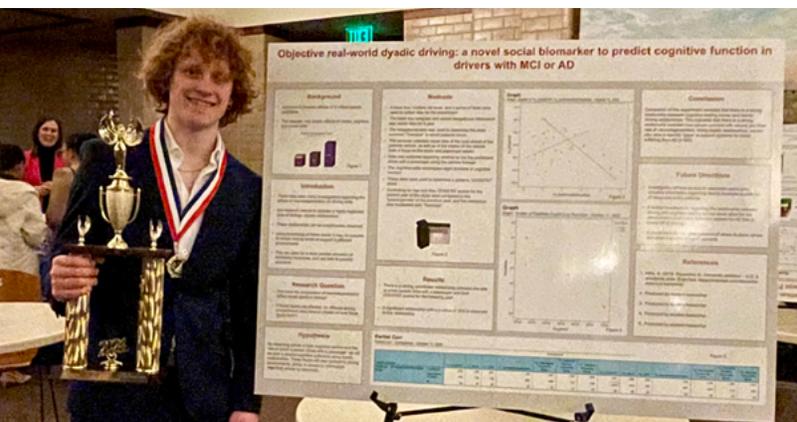
## Multiple Sclerosis team will present at the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis (CMSC) Conference

The UNMC Multiple Sclerosis team had two posters accepted for the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis (CMSC) Conference to be held May 29-June 1 in Nashville, Tenn.

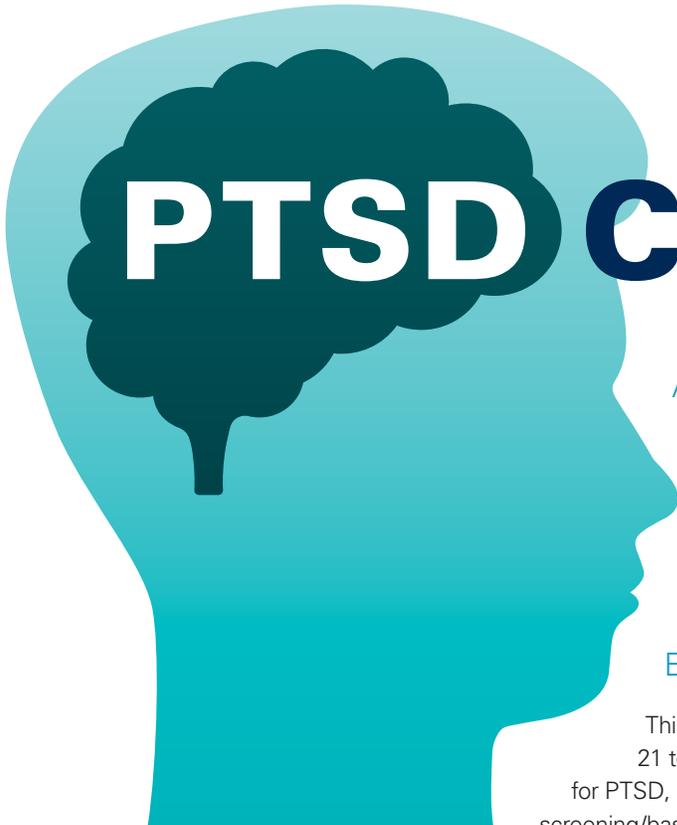
### Posters being presented:

- “Linking Breath with Quality of Life in People Living with Multiple Sclerosis and Advanced Disability”. Authors include Danny Seier, PTA, Renee Stewart, DNP, APRN-NP, Kristen Bayly, BSN, Sheryl McKim, MSPAS:PA-C, Nancy Lenz, MA, MPT, Chelsie Thompson, DO, Rana K. Zabad, MD and Aubrie L Lindner.
- “The Role of Gastrostomy Tube Hydration in Reducing Rate of Urinary Tract Infections in Multiple Sclerosis Patients with Advanced Disabilities and Chronic Urinary Catheters”. Authors include Sheryl McKim, MSPAS:PA-C, Renee Stewart, DNP, APRN-NP, Aubrie L Lindner, Rana K. Zabad, MD, Kristen Bayly, BSN, Chelsie Thompson, DO, Michael Feloney, MD and Kathleen Healey, NP, PhD.

## UNMC High School Alliance student wins Grand Prize at the 2024 Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair (MSEF)



**Jeremy (JJ) Robinson** worked on this research in the Mind and Brain Health Labs, while also swimming competitively and excelling in academics at Millard West High School. His winning project addressed “Objective Real-World Dyadic Driving: A Novel Social Biomarker to Predict Cognitive Function in Drivers with MCI or AD” (MCI is mild cognitive impairment; AD is Alzheimer’s disease). We are proud of JJ’s achievement and look forward to his continued growth and success in all his future endeavors, starting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this Fall.



# PTSD Clinical Trial

A large double-blind placebo-controlled study of cannabidiol (CBD) with PTSD is underway: Safety and Efficacy of Cannabidiol (CBD) for Symptoms of PTSD in Adults Using Liquid Structure™ Formulation (Nantheia™ ATL5) (IRB#159-22-FB) PI: Matt Rizzo, MD. The multidisciplinary research team spans the UNMC departments of Neurological Sciences, Psychology, Psychiatry, and Emergency Medicine.

This study of CBD in adults ages 21 to 65 meeting DSM-5 criteria for PTSD, includes a three-week screening/baseline period when structured diagnostic and symptom-specific measures, laboratory testing, cognitive testing, and activity and sleep data are collected. Participants are randomized to receive either CBD or placebo for an eight-week treatment period, after which they discontinue the treatment and complete a two-week follow-up visit. Participants may also participate in pre- and post-treatment fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and evaluation of inflammatory biomarkers from blood samples.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is underreported and may develop after exposure to a range of stressful events, such as personal assaults, domestic violence, natural disasters, medical trauma (including COVID or critical care hospitalization), car crashes, combat, trafficking, or other forms of violence or abuse. Perhaps half of all U.S. adults will experience or witness such a traumatic event in their lives, and perhaps a tenth of these may experience PTSD. PTSD can impair a person's ability to function at work, at home, and socially, with persistent, frightening thoughts and memories of

events, sleep problems, feelings of detachment, or other symptoms. The current trial may benefit someone with PTSD, seeking alternatives or adjunct to ongoing psychiatric, psychological, or pharmacologic interventions.

The clinical team includes Matt Rizzo, MD, Brigette Vaughan, APRN, Rocky Esterach, MD, Justin Weeks, PhD, and Zoe Feilner, PA, and colleagues. Since recruitment began in December 2022, they have networked with the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine emergency department, the departments of psychiatry, psychology, and neuropsychology and other specialty services including the Student Health CAPS program, Nebraska Medicine's PiNS program, the DONS concussion service, the perinatal psychiatry service, and the Olson Center's Gender Care Clinic. Engaging our UNMC and Nebraska Medicine colleagues to recruit for this study is key. Every department is serving someone who has experienced trauma and who may consider this study a possible resource for care.

Additional studies with this compound are underway in PTSD, Radiculopathic Pain, and Opioid Use Disorder at centers including New York University and University of California, Los Angeles.



# New! Education Corner

*Isha Snehal, MD, Neurology, Chief Resident*

**“Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.” — Martin Luther King Jr.**

Neurology education plays a pivotal role in fostering a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of the nervous system. Aspiring neurologists embark on a rigorous journey of learning, delving into the complexities of neurological disorders, diagnostic techniques, and cutting-edge research from day one of their training.

At UNMC, we have a rigorous didactic curriculum. We have an 18-month rotation of didactic topics that we run every Thursday inviting faculty from within UNMC and beyond, with a solid onboarding of our junior residents every year with an emergency lecture series. Then, interspersed with those are our Friday case conferences, journal clubs, and mortality and morbidity conferences, Wednesday sessions for EEG & EMG reviews and radiology review series. We also incorporate learning about palliative care, diversity and inclusion, career planning and financial management to provide a wholesome learning experience.

In residents' second year of education (PGY2), we participate in medical student teaching sessions collaborating with faculty

members, procedure sessions, and help with formal guidance regarding neurology as a career choice. We also collaborate with our stroke coordinators on continuing education for nurses on 6 Neuro or Neuro ICU.

There is a crescendo in the learning experience from a PGY2 to a PGY4 - from learning basics as a junior to then leading multidisciplinary teams as a senior. The most significant amount of learning is from our patients, experiences, and from communication with family members. Residents are involved in difficult patient situations and need to overcome stressful environments, but we still enjoy what we do and learn from our experiences.

These experiences not only help residents to engage in daily clinical experiences, understanding complex diseases and their management, gaining proficiency in neurological examination skills, and interpreting diagnostic imaging, but also facilitates compassion and empathy while delivering care to very complex patients and overall helps us blossom in becoming better leaders and educators.

# “What’s Going On in My Brain?”

## Neurology residents lead community outreach project

Neurology residents worked with students in Nebraska on a project titled: “Nebraska Scientist Virtual Field Trip — What’s Going On In My Brain?”. The virtual field trip is part of a 4-H virtual field trip series catered to school-going students in Nebraska between grades 7– 12. Chief Resident of Academics, Outreach and Recruitment, Isha Snehal, MBBS, Kanchan Kumari

(PGY3), MD, and Zaid Najdawi (PGY2), MD, collaborated with the University of Nebraska -Lincoln and their educators Sarah Paisley, Darci Pesek, and Tiffany Sessions to create a video that explains the work residents do at UNMC as Neurologists. The video also creates awareness on epilepsy, stroke, and concussions.

Learn more on the [facebook.com/Nebraska4H](https://www.facebook.com/Nebraska4H) or at the <https://4h.unl.edu/virtual-field-trips>.



Isha Snehal, MBBS



Kanchan Kumari, MD



Zaid Najdawi, MD

## Neurology on the Hill

Isha Snehal, MD, PGY-IV Resident and Chief Resident of Academics, Outreach and Recruitment, along with Creighton University’s Laura Danielson, MD, attended Neurology on the Hill in February in Washington D.C. The annual advocacy event gave Drs. Snehal and Danielson an opportunity to meet with Nebraska House of Representatives Don Bacon, Adrian Smith, Mike Flood, and Senators Deb Fischer and Pete Ricketts to discuss causes affecting neurological care including:

- Medicare cuts that lead to decreased access throughout Nebraska
- Step Therapy that causes unreasonable delays in patient care by asking for support for the Safe Step Act (HR 2630, S.652); and
- Funding for NINDS research and BRAIN initiative for fiscal year 2024/2025

Learn more about these issues at [aan.com/events/neurology-on-the-hill-issues-resources#subnav](https://www.aan.com/events/neurology-on-the-hill-issues-resources#subnav)



# Resident Appreciation Week

UNMC residents were celebrated from February 19-23.

Residents received breakfasts, lunches, and snacks throughout the week. They also participated in fun activities such as trivia night.



1. Neurology residents at Trivia Night

2. Neurosurgery residents on donut day

3. Neurosurgery residents on cupcake day

4. Neurosurgery residents taking a few minutes to relax



**Neurology residents and staff have started spring intramural sports including basketball, futsal and volleyball**





# Global burden of neurological disease

The burden of nervous system neurological conditions is immense.

A March 2024 study (Lancet Neurology, 2024; 23: 344-81 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(24\)00114-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(24)00114-5/fulltext)) found that disability-adjusted life years (DALY) due to neurological conditions, as of 2021, was 443 million years. This astronomical burden of illness, disability, and premature death from neurological conditions, exceeded those of cancer and cardiovascular disease. Among the 1,000 different neurological disorders that we may encounter, key culprits included stroke, Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, migraine, neonatal encephalopathy (brain injury), and diabetic complications (neuropathy, or nerve damage).

Globally, the number of people living with, or dying from, neurological conditions such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and meningitis has risen substantially over the past decades due to population

trends in global aging and exposure to social, economic, environmental, metabolic, and lifestyle risk factors. The huge impact of these potentially preventable conditions is an urgent call to action for us and the communities we serve that neurological health must be made a local, state, and global public health priority.

Early, accurate neurological diagnosis is central to timely, effective treatment and follow up — our goals across our Neurosciences hospitals, clinics, network, and communities. Success together depends on our highly trained workforce, modern tools and facilities, enhanced, connected public health records, registries and databases, and innovative analytic tools, in line with the ongoing "AI" revolution in healthcare, and our efforts at UNMC/ Nebraska Medicine to be a premier "learning health system."

# Save the Date! Upcoming Events

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

## 8th Annual DONS Resident/ Fellow Research Day

Join us at the Davis Global Center iExcel Building. More details to follow. For questions, please email [sallie.weathers@unmc.edu](mailto:sallie.weathers@unmc.edu)



**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

## 2nd Annual MAHA MS Strong Community Race Event

UNMC and Nebraska Medicine's Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Clinic will be hosting their second annual MS Strong Community Race Event at Aksarben Village – Stinson Park.

Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the MS at Home Access (MAHA) program, a comprehensive, home-based service for individuals with MS and other demyelinating diseases living with disability in our community.

Priority funding from the event will support monthly exercise scholarships for those enrolled in the MAHA program to MS community partners with expertise in working with this population.

While funding from the event goes toward supporting the MAHA program, the celebration is for anyone living with MS and other demyelinating diseases, family, friends, care partners, and members of the community. We hope to see you in May!

To register scan the QR code to the right or visit [nebraskamarathon.org/ms-strong](https://nebraskamarathon.org/ms-strong)

TOGETHER WE **FIGHT**  
TOGETHER WE **RUN**  
TOGETHER WE ARE  
**MS STRONG**



**4th Friday of the Month**

## Lewy Body Dementia Caregiver Support Group

The Lewy Body Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets via Zoom from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

This is a virtual support group for LBD caregivers. Participants must register for each support group separately, via the Zoom link below. After registering, a confirmation email with a passcode will be sent.

Register at <https://bit.ly/3S1933Y>



**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](mailto:sallie.weathers@unmc.edu)

## Follow us at

### **Department of Neurological Sciences**

 [unmc.edu/neurologicalsciences](http://unmc.edu/neurologicalsciences)

 [@UNMC\\_neurology](https://twitter.com/UNMC_neurology)

### **Department of Neurosurgery**

 [unmc.edu/neurosurgery](http://unmc.edu/neurosurgery)

 [@UNMC\\_neurosurg](https://twitter.com/UNMC_neurosurg)

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Medical Center

