

University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville
Rheumatology Fellowship Program
Neurology Rotation

Goals:

This rotation is designed to provide the fellow with complete exposure to a wide array of neurologic complications of connective tissue and neuromuscular diseases, and their investigation and treatment. This rotation also provides extensive experience with electrophysiology and the fellow will spend considerable time in the EMG lab interpreting EMG/NCS studies.

Objectives

Patient care

PGY5

- Describe the use of EMG/NCS in the diagnosis of neuromuscular disease.
- Identify rheumatologic patients in need of neurologic consultation.
- Define and prioritize patients' neurological and rheumatological problems and how medical problems impact the patient's neurological illness.
- Demonstrate excellence in neurologic examination and history taking of patients with neuromuscular diseases.
- Demonstrate ability to accurately diagnose and manage patients with neuromuscular diseases.

Medical knowledge

PGY5

- Improve basic neurological knowledge base, as demonstrated by the ability to describe nervous system anatomy, localize neuromuscular pathology, and describe physiology of the neuromuscular junction.
- For the following conditions, describe the difference in population, age and sex affected from those diseases, the unique clinical characteristics of each disease, the different treatment options that are available:
 - Neuropathies
 - Myopathies
 - Anterior horn cell diseases
 - Movement disorders
 - Disorders of the neuromuscular junction
- Accurately describe the following terms used for EMG/NCS studies: motor unit, reinnervation, compound muscle action potentials, sensory nerve action potentials, repetitive stimulation studies, somatosensory evoked potentials.
- Describe the following components of an EMG: Motor unit potentials, insertional activity, spontaneous activity (fibrillation potentials, positive sharp waves and complex repetitive discharges).
- Recognize the clinical indications for ordering an EMG/NCS study.
- Accurately describe peripheral neuroanatomy and nerve/muscle physiology.
- Recognize components of an abnormal EMG/NCS seen in a myopathic process or a neuropathic process.
- Describe the components of an EMG used in the diagnosis and prognosis of: myasthenia gravis, myotonic dystrophy and Bell's palsy.

Practice-based learning and improvement

PGY 5

- Identify gaps in personal knowledge and skills in the care of patients with neuromuscular disease.
- Develop and implement strategies for filling in gaps in knowledge and skills.
- Begin to incorporate feedback into improvement of clinical activity, including information obtained from patients, instructors and from the medical literature.
- Demonstrate the use of reflective learning by using the electronic and print medical literature to gain expertise in the management of patients and by communicating learned concepts to peers.
- Demonstrate ability to self-evaluate clinical practice by searching, retrieving, and interpreting peer-reviewed medical literature relevant to neuromuscular diseases.
- Apply study and case report conclusions to the care of individual patients.

Interpersonal and communication skills

PGY 5

- A. Understand the importance of patient primacy, as demonstrated by providing autonomy to the patient; respecting the patient's privacy; giving equitable care to all patients; treating all patients with respect regardless of race, gender and socioeconomic background.
 - B. Demonstrate humanistic qualities and altruism, such as empathy and compassion in patient/physician interactions, and sensitivity to patient needs for comfort and encouragement.
- Demonstrate excellence in communicating with patients the need for neurologic referral for their rheumatologic disease.
 - Communicate effectively to the consulting neurologist the reason of the referral.

Professionalism

PGY 5

- Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity.
- Demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of patients with chronic rheumatologic conditions and neurologic complications.

Systems-based practice

PGY 5

- Utilize the multidisciplinary resources (physical and occupational therapy, pain management) necessary to care optimally for patients with neuromuscular diseases.
- Discuss the impact a neuromuscular disease has on a patient's ability to function in our society, especially regarding employment.
- Collaborate with other members of the health care team to assure comprehensive care of a rheumatologic patient with neurologic complications.
- Use evidence-based, cost-conscious strategies in the care of those patients.

Methods of achieving objectives

- Direct patient care under the supervising Attending.
- Self-study of relevant sections using any one of several recommended basic textbooks of clinical Rheumatology (Kelley or Hochberg) and as per neurology attending.
- Select handouts and journal articles on pertinent topics.
- Core conference series.
- Electronic databases and computerized resources (UF databases, Up To Date)

Assessment tools

- Attending will critique fellow's assessment and plan.
- Attending will monitor fellow's self-directed learning.
- Attending will determine whether fellow has met the objectives detailed above.
- Rheumatology MKSAP questions
- Faculty -based quizzes
- ACR questions

Evaluation process

- Goals and objectives will be reviewed with the fellow at the beginning of each rotation.
- Verbal feedback will be given throughout and at the completion of the rotation from the attending.
- The global evaluation form will be completed by the attending and reviewed with the fellow.

The evaluation will be submitted to the administrative office for review by the program director.