

UCLA Neurology Residency
Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care Center and Nursing Home Care Unit
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS)

Rotation Name: Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care Center and Nursing Home Care Unit
Outpatient Rotation

Rotation Site Description: Please see “Neurology Orientation” Handout given to each resident the first day of the rotation.

Key Faculty Members:

- Denson Fujikawa, M.D., Staff Neurologist, Neurology Department, VAGLAHS, and Adjunct Professor of Neurology, UCLA Geffen School of Medicine
- James Chen, MD, PhD, Staff Neurologist, VAGLAHS, and Assistant Professor of Neurology, UCLA Geffen School of Medicine
- Shri Mishra, M.D., Staff Neurologist, Neurology Department, VAGLAHS, and Professor of Neurology, USC Keck School of Medicine

Rotation Goals and Objectives:

Goals:

The goal of this rotation is to provide the PGY2 neurology residents with experience in diagnosing and treating patients with common neurological problems in the outpatient and nursing home settings. The PGY2 residents will also gain subspecialty experience evaluating patients with neuromuscular disease, movement disorders and epilepsy. In addition to participating in patient care in clinics with a mixture of general and subspecialty neurologic diagnoses, the resident learns the basics of performing nerve conduction studies and electromyography. Through a half day spent at Olive View UCLA Medical center, the PGY2 resident will be introduced to general neurology care in a county funded medical center in the San Fernando Valley.

At times throughout the year, based on patient care and service needs, the PGY2 SVA resident may participate in the West LA VA General Neurology clinics held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the West LA VA campus. If applicable, each rotating SVA VA PGY2 will be made aware of these specific schedule alterations.

Objectives:

1. Provide an outpatient learning experience by helping the residents gain proficiency in diagnosing and treating patients with common neurological problems, including more complicated patients with multiple medical problems and more than one neurological problem.
2. Provide the PGY2 resident with subspecialty experience evaluating and treating patients with epilepsy, movement disorders, and neuromuscular disease in the outpatient setting.

3. Provide the PGY2 resident with “hands on” experience performing nerve conduction studies and electromyography (EMG) under the supervision of Dr. Shri Mishra, whose subspecialty interest is neuromuscular disease.
4. The PGY2 resident will be introduced to general neurology care in a county funded medical center in the San Fernando Valley with two half days of clinical experience (general and neuromuscular).
5. Provide PGY2 residents with the learning opportunity of preparing and presenting a clinical topic at the combined weekly Sepulveda-Olive View Neurology Conference.
6. Give PGY2 residents the experience of using a paperless computerized system (a PC is in every examining room) for writing clinical notes, ordering laboratory tests and obtaining test results, ordering medications, obtaining results of imaging studies, and viewing the actual images via the VAGLAHS PACS computers (film less x-rays and CT/MRI studies).
7. Encourage PGY2 to use the Web to access medical information, which can be done in each examining room and in the neurology conference room (where there are two PCs), which is adjacent to the examining rooms.
8. Educate PGY2 residents about the practice systems and health management systems (*Systems Based Practice Competency*) designed to provide ongoing outpatient care with in the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Health Care System.

Rotation Schedules, Duties and Expected Roles:

This overview outlines the Sepulveda VA Neurology Rotation as a unified or integrated curriculum. This rotation provides a structure for resident education in all of the core competency areas; however there are rotation activities that promote growth in specific competency areas, which are further identified below using the following key:

Patient Care: 1

Medical Knowledge: 2

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement: 3

Interpersonal and Communication Skills: 4

Professionalism: 5

Systems-Based Practice: 6

Outpatient General Neurology Clinics:

Please see Resident Continuity Clinic Orientation Manual given to each resident the first day of the rotation. Neurology residents are scheduled in daily general neurology clinics where a Veteran population of patients is referred for the management of common neurological conditions including radiculopathy, back and neck pain, and peripheral neuropathy, among others. Residents provide the primary H & P, then present to scheduled attending faculty. A diagnostic and management plan is collaboratively established. The resident will also have a half-day of general neurology clinic and a half-day of neuromuscular clinic at the Olive View UCLA Medical Center. At times throughout the year, based on patient care and service needs, the PGY2 SVA resident may participate in the West LA VA General Neurology clinics held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the West LA VA campus. If applicable, each rotating SVA VA PGY2 will be made aware of these specific schedule alterations

Competency addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Outpatient Subspecialty Neurology Clinics:

Please see “Neurology Orientation” Handout given to each resident the first day of the rotation. Neurology residents are scheduled in subspecialty neurology clinics where a Veteran population of patient is referred for the management of specific neurological conditions including dementia, parkinsonism, and epilepsy, among others. Patients with peripheral nerve and muscle disease are evaluated in the electrodiagnostic laboratory. Residents provide the primary H & P, then present to scheduled attending faculty. A diagnostic and management plan is collaboratively established.

Competency addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Regularly Scheduled Didactics/Lectures/Conferences:

As noted under Objective 6 above, there is a weekly combined Sepulveda-Olive View Neurology Conference, in which residents prepare and present a clinical topic. In addition to organizing a one-hour presentation, residents gain experience using PowerPoint to present their material.

Competency addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

**** In addition, all residents rotating at the Sepulveda VA Ambulatory Care Center are expected to attend and benefit from the competency-based curriculum or DIDACTIC THREAD covered in the Wednesday lecture series (Grand Rounds, Core Curriculum, Resident Update Meetings, Journal Club, Neuroanatomy Case Review, and NOC).**

Basic Schedule Grid of Neurology Clinical and Didactic Activities:

Day	Activity / Location	Supervising Attending
Monday am	EMG lab SVA	Dr. Mishra
Monday pm	SVA Neurology Clinic*	Dr. James Chen
Tuesday am	Sepulveda-Olive View Conf.	Multiple SVA and OV Faculty
Tuesday pm	Olive View UCLA MC	Olive View Neurology Faculty
Wednesday am	UCLA CHS Didactics	
Wednesday pm	EMG Olive View	Dr. Mishra
Thursday am	SVA Neurology Clinic	Dr. Mishra
Thursday pm	SVA Neurology Clinic*	Dr. Mishra
Friday am	Olive View UCLA MC	Dr. Mishra and OV Faculty
Friday pm	SVA Neurology Clinic	Dr. Fujikawa

**At times throughout the year, based on patient care and service needs, the PGY2 SVA resident may participate in the West LA VA General Neurology clinics held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the West LA VA campus. If applicable, each rotating SVA VA PGY2 will be made aware of these specific schedule alterations*

Key References / Resources:

1. Dr. Fujikawa provides a handout for each PGY2 resident that includes basic information on such topics as the neurological exam, evaluation of aphasia and dysarthria, neuro-ophthalmological topics such as the evaluation of eye movements, nystagmus, diplopia, visual acuity testing, classification of seizure disorders and epileptic syndromes, evaluation of brain death, and two miscellaneous topics: evaluation of patients with Parkinson’s disease and with benign positional paroxysmal vertigo. Key references in performing the neurological exam, aphasia evaluation, neuro-ophthalmological evaluation of patients, and examination of the peripheral nervous system are listed at the end of the handout on the neurological exam.

2. Dr. Mishra provides information on neuromuscular disease assessment and information on EMG, nerve conduction studies and muscle histology and histochemistry for each PGY2 resident.
3. The Louise Darling Biomedical Library website is a valuable resource, from which such basic texts as Harrison's and Cecil's textbooks of medicine can be accessed and specific topics reviewed and printed out if desired.
4. We are in the process of obtaining and updating key neurological reference books, which are kept under lock in a cabinet in the neurology conference room adjacent to the patient examining rooms.

Evaluation Methods:

- At the end of the rotation the attending faculty that have worked with the resident team are asked to fill out a comprehensive evaluation form that is based on the core competency areas and the goals/objectives listed above., using our electronic evaluation system. These evaluations are compiled and reviewed with each resident biannually.
- The residents assess the performance of each member of rotating health care team by completing peer evaluations. These peer evaluations are compiled and reviewed with each resident biannually.
- Residents are asked to assess the faculty mentors that they have worked with as well as the overall rotation, using our electronic evaluation system.
- Resident Update Meetings, Residency Training Committee meetings, and Resident retreats provide an ongoing forum for recommending curricular or structural changes in the rotation.

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Alon Avidan, M.D., M.P.H.