

## Neurotology Fellowship Department of Otolaryngology

### SCOPE of PRACTICE PGY6-PGY7

The Residency Review Commission in Otolaryngology requires demonstrated progressive responsibility in cognitive and procedural patient management. A concrete list of procedures and timing limiting the progression of gifted neurotology fellows could be contrary to the aims and intent of the RRC and therefore we define the general scope of practice for each year with the understanding that neurotology fellow duties may be accelerated or restrained according to the judgment of the faculty and specific attending. Twice per year the program director and faculty members meet to discuss neurotology fellow evaluations. The program director then meets with the neurotology fellow to determine his/her status and to ensure the appropriateness of their performance for promotion to higher responsibility.

The Neurotology program is organized into a single service at MUSC: Team A. The Neurotology Fellow works with the Otolaryngology-Neurotology Division mostly at the MUSC main campus. On a weekly or monthly basis, one of the attendings holds a clinic at one of two off-campus locations. Neurotology Fellow clinic coverage at these off-campus sites is sporadic. This is therefore, not a separate rotation, but simply a part of the MUSC Team A rotation. In addition, occasionally, the Neurotology fellow might be involved with patient care at the VA.

Team A - Drs. Dixon, Labadie, McRackan, Meyer, Rizk

All otology-neurotology clinics are subspecialty-related attending clinics. The neurotology fellow is involved in many of these clinics (exceptions include OR responsibilities, and simultaneous attending clinics). All Neurotology cases are staffed by the attending with graduated responsibility given to the Neurotology fellow. The first year of the fellowship is focused more on the surgical approach and closure while the second year of the fellowship places more emphasis on the definitive procedure. The fellow is also involved with the perioperative management of patients on the Neurotology service.

These two years include neurotology fellow participation in clinical activities that give them the opportunity to: a) develop the knowledge and skills needed to assess, plan, and initiate treatment of adult and pediatric patients with otological and neurotological problems; b) and participate in the pre- and post-operative care of neurotological surgical patients in out-patient and in-patient settings.

### **GENERAL NEUROTOLOGY FELLOW RESPONSIBILITIES**

The neurotology fellow will assist with supervising the otolaryngology residents on service and check notes for timeliness and accuracy. Effective communication between otolaryngology residents and the neurotology fellow and attendings is essential. The neurotology fellow must understand the clinical plan as dictated by the attending physician always, and the neurotology fellow will demonstrate a **graduated** role in the clinical decision making and operative and post-operative management of patients over

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the neurotology fellowship.

Any untoward event (including complication, drug reaction, change in patient course, and misunderstanding with attending, residents, nurses, ancillary personnel or staff) will be brought to the attention of the attending, program director, or Department Chair, immediately. The neurotology fellow will show sensitivity to patients and family needs. Patient information is not to be discussed in public. The neurotology fellow will maintain cordial decorum with all clinic personnel, and resolution of differences of opinion will be carried out in a straightforward and reasonable fashion. If personal differences cannot be resolved between individuals, they will be brought to the program director, the Department Chair, or the DIO. The neurotology fellow will be judged fairly on performance, and inherent in this concept is that judgment must be evaluated, and treatment courses critiqued. This must be carried out in a positive fashion so maximum learning experience is achieved.

**BASIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The basic philosophy and goals of the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery remain unchanged and include:

- The welfare of the patient is the department's primary concern.
- To train neurotology fellows and otolaryngology residents to efficiently provide the highest quality care.
- To provide excellent otolaryngological education to residents and students.
- To promote activities pertinent to otolaryngology resident and neurotology fellow education.
- To consider all otolaryngological patients as part of the teaching system.
- To make neurotology fellow education a priority in face of the economic pressures of the present health care system.
- To allow the neurotology fellow freedom to evaluate, formulate, and Institute treatment plans for patients, under proper attending supervision.
- To assure personal attending supervision of the neurotology fellow in all levels of patient care.
- To advance the neurotology fellow's surgical level of involvement as rapidly as the attending feels is justified.

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**PGY-6 Neurotology Fellow**

First year Neurotology Fellows spend 12 months at the Medical University. The Neurotology Fellow is involved in the attending clinics, attending cases in the operating rooms, and in the clinical management of patients in the perioperative setting.

**Specific Goals and Objectives: PGY-6**

To gain a solid understanding of the breadth of the specialty of Neurotology, including patient care of neurotology patients.

- To be able to perform complete head and neck and otologic-neurotologic examination on pediatric and adult patients.
- To be able to establish diagnoses and treatment plans under the supervision of the attending for outpatients.
- To demonstrate expert knowledgeable about audiograms and vestibular function testing, including but not limited to VNGs, rotary chair, vHIT, and posturography.
- To demonstrate competent knowledge about CT and MRI scans of the head and neck and temporal bone.
- To provide leadership and supervision to the senior and junior residents in the outpatient setting for neurotology patients.
- To supervise rotating medical students and interns on the service.
- To know when patients should be referred to another otolaryngologist or subspecialist for consultation. Inherent In this knowledge is a realistic understanding of one's surgical skills and ability to manage complicated medical issues.
- To acquire competency and confidence in managing Neurotology patients. This Involves the diagnosis, preoperative assessment, medical and surgical treatment, postoperative care, and appropriate use of consults.

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**PGY-7 Neurotology fellow**

Second year Neurotology Fellows spend 12 months at the Medical University.

**Specific Goals & Objectives: PGY-7**

- To assume a mentorship role for the resident, intern, and medical student staffing of the service of rotation. This implies a leadership role.
- To work closely with the attending in providing optimal patient care in the outpatient setting.
- To evaluate all admissions and consults to the service of rotation and discuss these with the attending.
- To act as a liaison between the faculty and residents.
- To demonstrate expertise in the interpretation of normal and abnormal anatomy on MRI and CT scans of the temporal bone and the development of a differential diagnosis.
- To demonstrate competency in the development of in-depth diagnoses and treatment plans for outpatients with a wide variety of neurotologic disorders.
- To demonstrate competence in the supervision of the otolaryngology residents in the performance of basic otologic examinations in the clinic with patients with otologic- neurotologic Issues.
- To demonstrate competency in managing Neurotology patients. This involves the diagnosis, preoperative assessment, medical and surgical treatment, postoperative care, and appropriate use of consults.