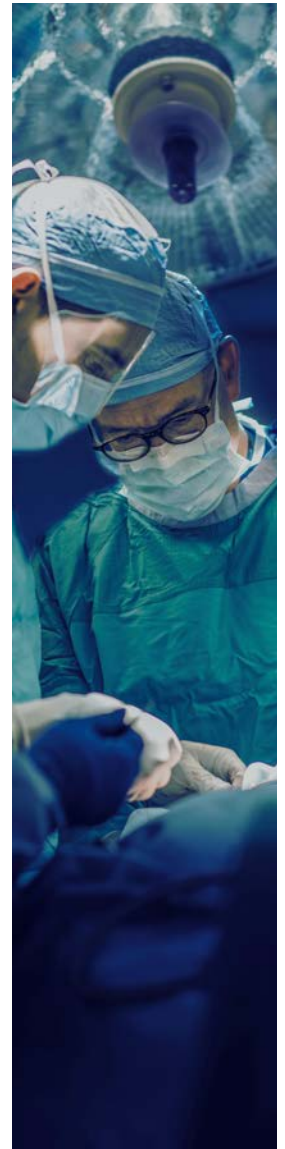




IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

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Interested in writing a column?
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Parkinson's Disease Patients Experience Significant Reduction in Symptoms with Non-Surgical Focused Ultrasound Treatment

Date: February 22, 2023 | By: Deborah Kotz, Senior Director of Media Relations at UMSOM



Study Led to FDA Approval of Focused Ultrasound Device that Provides Novel Treatment Option Without Requiring Incision

Patients with Parkinson's disease achieved a significant improvement in their tremors, mobility, and other physical symptoms after having a minimally-invasive procedure involving focused ultrasound, according to a new study today published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#).

The clinical trial was led by researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and involved 94 Parkinson's disease patients who were randomly assigned to undergo focused ultrasound to ablate a targeted region on one side of the brain or to have a sham procedure. Nearly 70 percent of patients in the treatment group were considered successful responders to treatment after three months of follow-up, compared to 32 percent in the control group who had an inactive procedure without focused ultrasound.

Two-thirds of those who responded initially to the focused ultrasound treatment continued to have a successful response from the treatment a year later. Patients were treated at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), the academic flagship hospital for the University of Maryland Medical System, and 15 other sites in North America, Asia, and Europe.

"These results are very promising and offer Parkinson's disease patients a new form of therapy to manage their symptoms. There is no incision involved, which means no risk of a serious infection or brain bleeding," said study corresponding author [Howard Eisenberg, MD](#). Read the full article [here](#).

Deborah Kotz reports that there has already been considerable news coverage circulated by other news outlets, such as [U.S. News Health Day](#), [Medpage Today](#), [Inside Precision Medicine](#), and [Technology Networks](#). There will also be a [Baltimore Sun](#) and [USA Today](#) story to be released in the near future. *Congratulations Dr. Eisenberg, Paul Fishman, MD, PhD, and the hardworking Focused Ultrasound team!*

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS



ABDUL-KAREEM AHMED, MD, SM, PGY-5

Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD, SM, PGY-5 was chosen to be one of five physicians to attend the Clear Education Program held at their Global Training and Innovation Center in Solana Beach, California. For the weekend of February 24th to the 26th, Dr. Jessica Wilden, MD, will lead the course "MRI-Guidance for Stereotactic Neurosurgical Applications," where she will be discussing her experience and utilization of the ClearPoint system for a variety of different applications.

It doesn't stop there for Abdul's accomplishments this month, his essay titled "An Improbable Life" was featured in *Brown Medicine Magazine*! Abdul reflects on his experience during night float, and what comment, if any, neurosurgery makes about life. You can read the full article [here](#). *Congrats, Abdul!*

JEFF OLIVER, MD, PGY-7



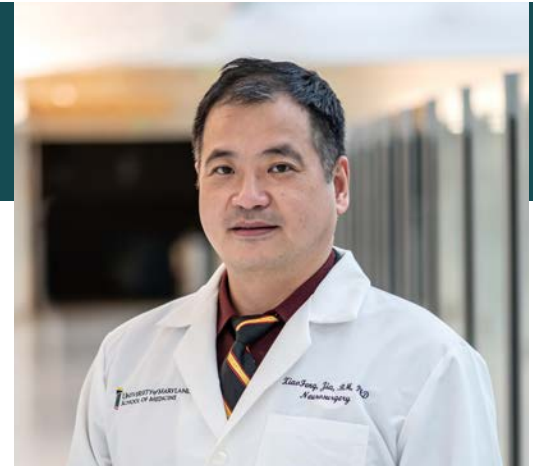
Jeff Oliver, MD, PGY-7 and **Darrien McAfee** (Second year medical student in **Alex Ksendzovsky, MD, PhD** Lab) both presented at the Neurosurgical Society of the Virginias annual meeting in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia at the Greenbrier Resort. The conference was held on January 26th to the 28th. Darrien was one of two medical students selected over the summer for a research grant from NSV and presented on "LDHA and the KATP Channel Forms the Link Between Metabolism and Epilepsy." Jeff's talk was on "Adjunct Middle Meningeal Artery Embolization with Twist Drill Craniostomy for Chronic Subdural: A Single Center Experience."



This wasn't the only highlight for Jeff this February, as Jeff also celebrated a milestone in his residency training! He performed his 1000th cranial case! With **Mohamed Labib, MD** by his side during the surgery, they both take a well deserved moment to capture this great accomplishment! *Congratulations Jeff!*

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Xiaofeng Jia, BM, MD, PhD



There are many highlights in February for **Xiaofeng Jia, BM, MS, PhD, FCCM** that are worth mentioning!

- Dr. Jia was appointed as the Associate Editor for the Translational Neuroscience section in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*.
- Dr. Jia received the 2023 Society Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Star Research Achievement Award. SCCM is a large multidiscipline community with 16,000 members in more than 100 countries.
- Dr. Jia and **Zihui Wang, MD, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, were corresponding authors of "Treating Peripheral Nerve Injury-Induced Spinal Cord Degeneration and Neuropathic Pain with Peripherally Administrated Stem Cells." This study will be published in the March 2023 Issue of *Neural Regeneration Research* journal. *Great work, Dr. Jia!*



ICTR INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION PILOT GRANT

Alex Ksendzovsky, MD, PhD, along with the UMB Epilepsy Surgery Program and Dr. Weizhen Xie from the University of Maryland College Park, have successfully received the ICTR Innovative Collaboration Pilot Grant on February 1st! This project marks the beginning of a new collaboration to start a cognitive Neurophysiology Research Program which focuses on understanding the neurophysiological basis of cognition including temporal lobe function in human memory. The Institute for Clinical & Translational Research (ICTR) will be hosting the 2023 ATIP Awardee Orientation on March 7th to commemorate Drs. Ksendzovsky and Xie's amazing accomplishment! *Congratulations Dr. Ksendzovsky!*

2023 ACS-IRG RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Pavlos "Paul" Anastasiadis, PhD has been invited to attend the 2023 ACS-IRG Research Symposium on March 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.! Dr. Anastasiadis was awarded pilot project funding for 2022 and 2023 by the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant. During the symposium, Dr. Anastasiadis, along with other grant winners, will give a 10 minute presentation about their pilot project. *Congratulations Dr. Anastasiadis!*





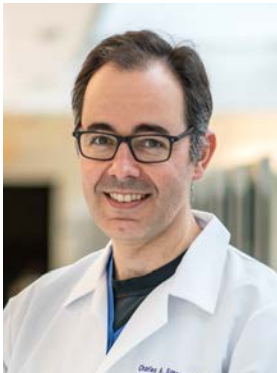
CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL PRE-MEDICINE CLUB!

Centennial High School Pre-Medicine Club in Ellicott City, MD held their 3rd Annual Medical Seminar on February 10th. Local physicians were asked to give 3 one hour presentations on their specialty with emphasis on why we chose our field, what is the educational pathway, what is daily life like, and what advice for future scholars can you provide?

"The students were very impressive and enthusiastic all around at this well-run event put on by the students. It was an honor and a blast to talk about Neurosurgery and I've already received many mentoring requests in just a few days." **Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD** says. This group picture shows Dr. Schwartzbauer, other faculty and the CHS Pre-Medicine leadership. *Amazing work! Way to inspire a new generation of budding medical professionals, Dr. Schwartzbauer!*

SPECIAL AANS/CNS UPDATE

Beginning March 16 through March 19, The 39th Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves will take place at the Fontainebleau in balmy Miami Beach, Florida!



Charles Sansur, MD, MHCS was selected as the Scientific Program Director for the AANS/CNS Spine and Peripheral Nerve Section! He is scheduled to moderate March 17th "Scientific Session 2: Excellence Requires Change," and March 19th "Scientific Session 7: Our Greater Purpose."

Ken Crandall, MD was selected to be Course Director for the APP course! He will be discussing various spine issues for PAs and NPs at the conference. His presentations are on March 16th, beginning with "Tips and Pearls for Advanced Practice Providers," and ending with "Inpatient Issues After Spine Surgery and How to Deal With Them."

Drs. Sansur and Crandall won't be the only two in attendance; residents **Ashish Sharma, MD, PGY-6**, and future faculty member **Tim Chryssikos, MD, PhD** will be attending along with fellow alumni **Nathan Pratt, MD** and **Harry Mushlin, MD**.

[To view the 2023 Spine Summit page to register, click here.](#)

[To view the full schedule online click here.](#)

ATTENTION PHYSICIANS: NOMINATE MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY!

It's that time of the year again! *Doximity*, on behalf of the *U.S. News & World Report*, is requesting fellow physicians' expertise in identifying hospitals that provide the highest quality patient care in Neurology and Neurosurgery. You can nominate up to 5 hospitals by typing the names in the survey. Only physicians with a *Doximity* account can submit nominations. **Please submit responses by March 24th here.** *Vote Maryland Neurosurgery!!*



FEBURARY 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY GRAND ROUNDS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Thu, February 2 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Laura Ngwenya, MD, PhD, FAANS <i>"Detection and Management of Spreading Depolarizations in Traumatic Brain Injury: A Translational Approach"</i> |
| Thu, February 9 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Bert O'Malley, MD, President & CEO of UMMC <i>"Current Climate of the Medical Center"</i> |
| Thu, February 16 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD M&M |
| Thu, February 23 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Ross Puffer, MD <i>"Peripheral Nerve Trauma: Mechanisms and Reconstruction Options"</i> |

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

MARCH GRAND ROUNDS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thu, March 2 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS |
| Thu, March 9 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Jesse Stokum, MD, PhD, PGY-4 |
| Thu, March 16 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Nathan Han, MD, PGY-6 |
| Thu, March 23 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | TBA |
| Thu, March 30 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD |

HOLIDAYS

- 2/1 - National Patient Recognition Week
- 2/1 - LGBTQ+ History Month
- 2/3 - National Women Physician's Day
- 2/4 - World Cancer Day
- 2/13 - International Epilepsy Day
- 2/14 - Valentine's Day
- 2/20 - President's Day
- 2/22 - Ash Wednesday & Lent



HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?



We are looking for stories, achievements, heroics, tidbits, and fun stuff to feature in *In the Loupes* and to share within University of Maryland and our surrounding communities. If you are interested in writing a column or want to share what type of news you want to hear more, feel free to email at rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu

If you would like to submit your news via the Neurosurgery News Portal, scan the QR code or copy and paste the link below into your browser.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY NEWS PORTAL!](#)



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! ♥

