



IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

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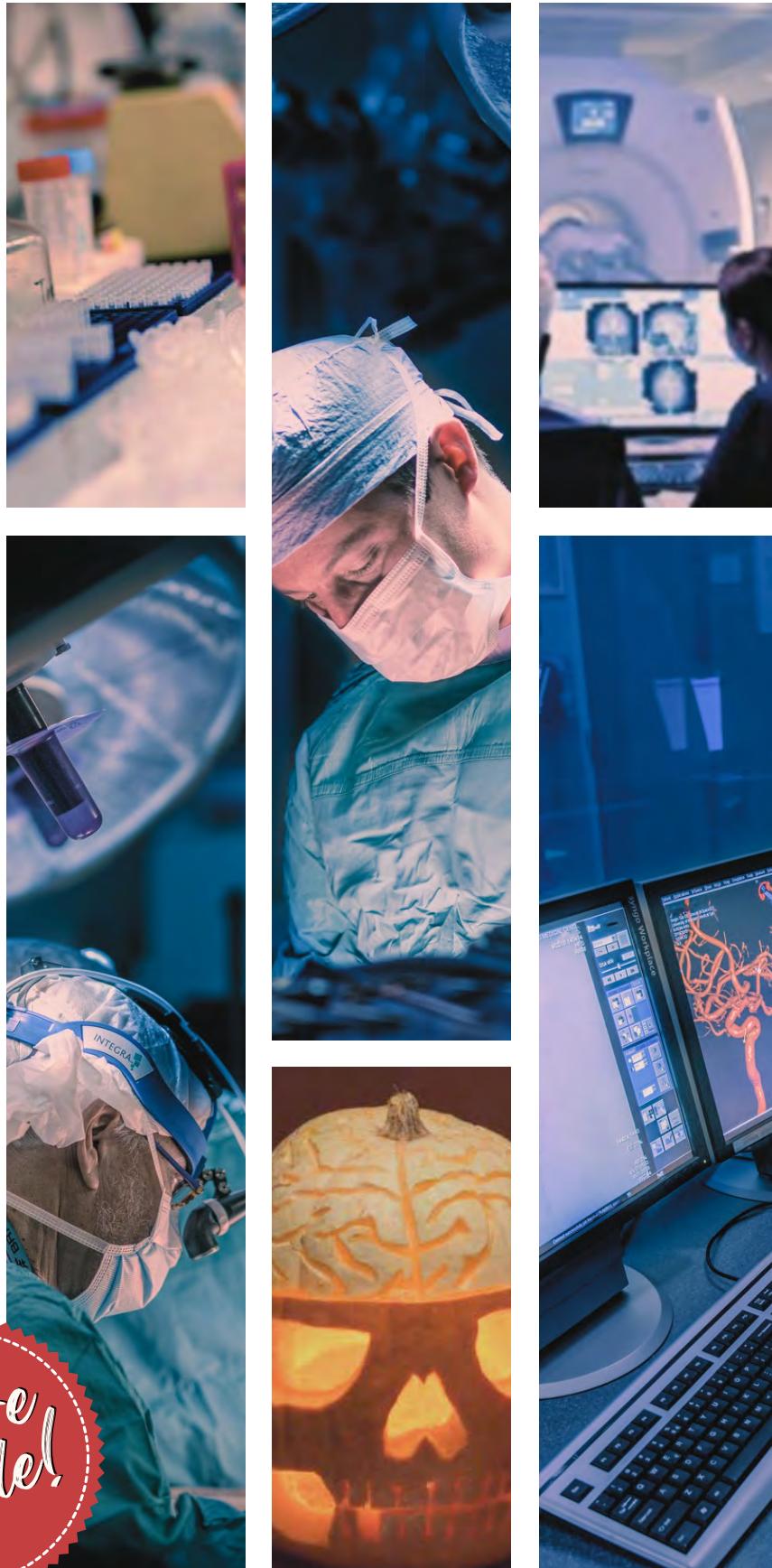
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CLINICAL RESEARCH RUNDOWN

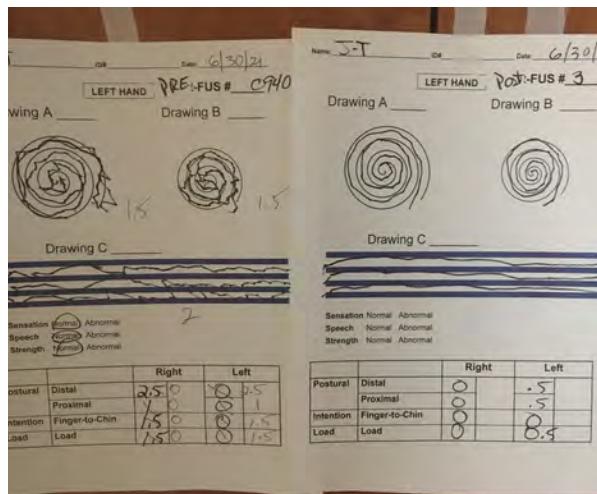
In the Loupes covers stories about physicians, residents, and research, but we are yet to explore the world of clinical trials. This month, we will give the Department the rundown on what's going on in Clinical Research.

Kaitlyn (Clinical Research Supervisor), Charlie, and Jourdan (both Coordinators) have their hands full coordinating clinical trials for movement disorders, neuropathic pain, subdural hematomas, spinal trauma, and glioblastomas. As the study

portfolio continues to grow, the team juggles unique protocols and diverse patient populations with different PI's for each trial.

Last week, the team hit a milestone, treating the final patient of a long series of essential tremor trials with Dr. Eisenberg. And, as one trial closes a new one opens, as first-time PI, Dr. Cherian, begins enrolling for a new subdural hematoma trial.

Since 2013, the Department has been an active center for essential tremor (ET) trials. ET is a neurological disorder that causes involuntary shaking that interferes with the day-to-day lives of patients. This week "Bilateral



Treatment of Medication Refractory Essential Tremor" (ET005) ended. ET005 assesses the safety and efficacy of the MR-guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) thalamotomy procedure to reduce the impact of bilateral tremors. Eight years of trials culminated in ET005- the first trial in the US to treat ET on both sides of the brain. Previous trials were limited to treating only one side. Maryland Neurosurgery played a critical role in the study; of the 51 participants treated worldwide, 20 patients were treated at UMMC, one of seven active centers in the trial.

The end of the ET trials represents a landmark moment for the clinical research team. ET was one of the few trials that started as a feasibility study and received FDA approval as a

standard of care procedure. From 2013, when the Department began early MRgFUS randomized ET studies, UMB has since grown to be a highly sought-after facility across the US for the standard of care treatment of unilateral MRgFUS for ET. "In many ways, completing enrollment for ET005 and the upcoming submission to the FDA for approval represents the culmination of nearly a decade of work by Dr. Eisenberg and the multidisciplinary team supporting these studies," says Kaitlyn Hornfeck, Clinical Research Supervisor.



Part of the ET team: Dr. Eisenberg, Shanell Watson, and Kaitlyn Hornfeck

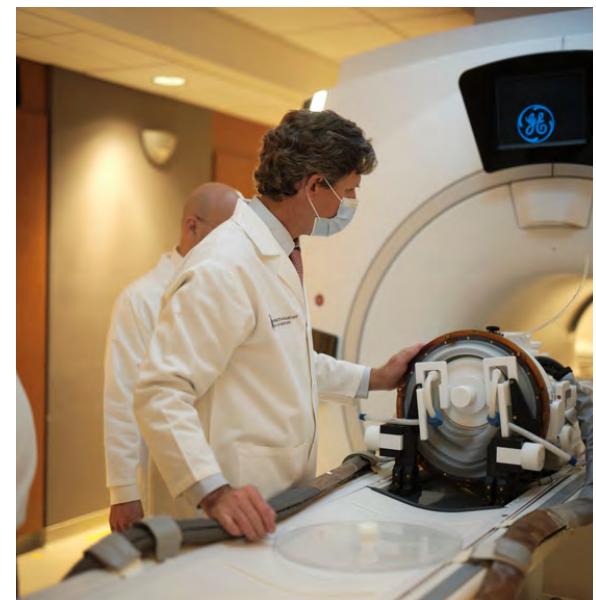
The MRgFUS treatments for ET were powerful experiences for the patients, providers, and staff. "Working on the ET005 study is particularly gratifying because of the immediately visible treatment effect. Patients go into the treatment with tremors that, in many cases, have been with them for decades and have had a severe impact on their daily lives and self-image," Charlie Klontz recalls. "Oftentimes, they are unable to button their shirt, lift a glass to their mouth, or even write their name. To see the joy in the eyes of these patients as they come out of treatment and hold out a steady hand is truly incredible."

After a brief moment to reflect on the ET trials, the Clinical Research Team is busy with MEMBRANE, "The Middle Meningeal Arter Embolization for the Treatment of Subdural Hematomas with TRUFILE® n-BCA." PI Dr. Jacob Cherian and Sub-I Dr. Bizhan Aarabi will study the safety and efficacy of using n-BCA liquid embolic system, a product used to stop blood from flowing, as a treatment of chronic subdural hematomas. Dr. Cherian explained the significance, "We are hoping to understand the role of endovascular embolization through the middle meningeal artery for treatment of subdural hematomas specifically using n-BCA glue."

Subdural hematoma is one of the most common neurosurgical conditions. It is the buildup of blood between the brain and its outermost covering. For this trial, Dr. Aarabi will identify potential participants suffering from a subdural hematoma in Shock Trauma. After enrollment, Dr. Cherian, and the Interventional Radiology team, will apply n-BCA through a catheter running through the middle meningeal artery to the affected part of the brain. At this point, the clinical research team is just beginning enrollment efforts and expects to see patients soon.

Amidst the transitions, the Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption (BBBD) trials are progressing. "Assessment of safety and Feasibility of ExAblate Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption for the Treatment of High Grade Glioma in Patients Undergoing Standard Chemotherapy" (BT008) and "Assessment of Safety and Feasibility of Exablate Type 2 Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption with Microbubble Resonators for the Treatment

of Recurrent Glioblastoma (rGBM) in Subjects Undergoing Carboplatin Monotherapy" (BT009) are the 2nd and 3rd BBBB trials at UMMC. High grade glioma and glioblastoma are fast and aggressive types of cancer found in the brain. Among the first clinical trials of their kind, BT008 and BT009 evaluate the safety and feasibility of BBBB using MRgFUS with microbubble resonators combined with chemotherapy.



Dr. Woodworth explaining BBBB treatments to team members.



The goal is to open the pathway to the tumor location, enhancing the targeted application of chemotherapeutic agents. The pair of studies recruit patients at different stages of treatment and use different types of chemotherapeutic agents. To date, there are a total of 13 participants enrolled between the two studies. Both studies are still active, and we are eagerly awaiting outcome analysis.

In between ET, MEMBRANE, and BBB trials, the team continues work on Parkinson's Disease, neuropathic pain, trigeminal neuralgia, the NACTN Spinal Cord Injury Registry, and more. Each trial relies on partnerships between departments and the tireless efforts of the providers and Clinical Research Team. In this light, the Department's Clinical Research efforts seek to solve complex neurosurgical problems to improve the condition and health of our patients.

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

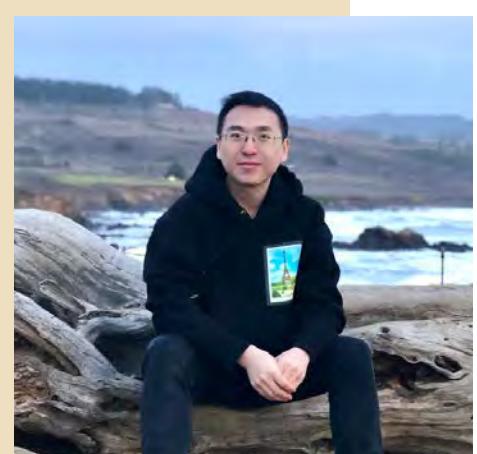


CHIQUITA BELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Chiquita has been a UMMC employee for over 15 years. Her first job at UMMC was a Unit Secretary on 13E/W Medical Surgeon inpatient unit. She says that her transition has become one of the best decisions in her career, where she can continue working closely with the best Neurosurgery physicians, nurses, and admin team. Welcome to the team, Chiquita!

ZIHUI WANG, PHD, POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Dr. Zihui Wang is joining Maryland Neurosurgery as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Translational Neuroengineering & Neuroscience Lab, led by Dr. Xiaofeng Jia. Dr. Wang earned a medical degree in 2008 and from China Medical University and a PhD in Neuroscience from Ohio University in 2020. Prior to joining the department, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Neuroscience at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. Welcome, Dr. Wang!





NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT



XIAO LIU, PhD, POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Dr. Xiao Liu is from the Department of Critical Care Medicine, Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University. She says it's an honor to join the UMB family, and is excited to work with Dr. Jia. Liu is also looking forward to researching brain injuries after cardiac arrests, which will, in turn, benefit clinical work in the future. Overall, Liu believes that she will learn a lot in Jia Lab! Welcome aboard, Dr. Liu!

TAYLOR MIESE, MEDICAL PRACTICE LEAD

Taylor Miese is excited to be a part of the University of Maryland Neurosurgery team as the new Medical Practice Lead! Taylor graduated from Bowie State University in 2018, majoring with a B.S. in Psychology. After living in D.C. for many years, Taylor can confidently say she is thrilled to be one of Baltimore's newest residents! When Taylor is not working, she can be found exploring the city with her French Bulldog, Nellie.



ROBYN MORANEY, M4, SUB-I



Robyn Moraney is currently visiting UMMS on a Sub-Internship at our department. She is from South Carolina and is currently attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, as a 4th year medical student. Robyn is happy to share that her time has been a whirlwind – filled up with amazing opportunities and a chance to see the fast-paced world of Neurosurgery through the eyes of a hopeful resident. Though her time may be brief during this month-long

rotation, the knowledge that she has gained will be lifelong. Thank you for joining us Robyn, and we're happy to have you!



PROMOTIONS

*Congratulations
Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer!*

We are proud to announce that Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer has been promoted to Associate Professor! Having been with us since 2014, Dr. Schwartzbauer has proven to be an integral, irreplaceable part of the department and the Shock Trauma Center. Congratulations, Dr. Schwartzbauer, your new title is well-deserved!



STAFF HIGHLIGHT: MARILYN ROBBINS

Tammy and Liz would like to acknowledge Marilyn Robbins, Surgical Operations Coordinator for being a wonderful example of the Department's Core Values. Marilyn is the epitome of a team player and consistently goes above and beyond to serve our patients, surgeons, and team members. Her kindness, warm smile and genuine desire to lend a helping hand does not go unnoticed.
Thank you, Marilyn!



THE BALTIMORE RUNNING FESTIVAL!

Maryland Neurosurgery ran in the Baltimore Running Festival on Saturday, October 9th!

The following familiar faces who participated in this event were: Riccardo Serra, Josh Olexa, Sophie White, Maureen Scarboro, and Cara Lomangino! They ran either the full marathon, the half marathon, 5K, 10K, or the Balti-Moron-A-Thon (which includes the half marathon and the 5K). Everyone who attended got a free Under Armour shirt. Pretty cool, right?

The course traveled through neighborhoods, the Inner Harbor waterfront area, Federal Hill, Fells Point, and even past the penguin exhibit in the Maryland Zoo! You can access the map of the full marathon [here](#).

Thanks for representing us out there, runners!





UPCOMING GRAND ROUNDS



DR. PATRICIA LEIGH ZADNIK SULLIVAN

*Brown University Rhode Island Hospital
Providence, RI*

Thursday, October 14, 2021

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

12th Floor Conference Room & Zoom



DR. PETER NAKAJI

*Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ*

Thursday, October 21, 2021

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

12th Floor Conference Room & Zoom



DR. JOHN BURKE, PGY-7

*UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences
San Francisco, CA*

Thursday, October 28, 2021

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

12th Floor Conference Room & Zoom



CNS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2021

Saturday, October 16, 2021

10:00 - 1:00 PM | Dr. Jacob Cherian, SANS Vascular Section Editor, SANS Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 17, 2021

11:00 AM | Dr. Ken Crandall, Spine Section, Scientific Planning Committee

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Dr. Charley Sansur, Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerve, Scientific Planning Committee Meeting

12:45 - 4:15 PM | Dr. Charley Sansur, Faculty, Modern Spine Trauma Management Course

Monday, October 18, 2021

4:14 – 5:45 PM | Dr. Bizhan Aarabi, Discussant, Crossfire Debates in Neurotrauma: Operative Techniques and Case-based Discussions

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

7:06 – 7:12 AM | Ujwal Boddetti, MS II in Ksendzovsky Lab, Presenter, 'The role of functional network formation in a stimulation model of epilepsy'

12:15 - 1:45 PM | Dr. Charley Sansur, Faculty, SI Joint Fusion: Indications, Technique, and Outcomes

12:15 - 4:15 PM | Dr. Charley Sansur, CNS Scientific Program Committee Meeting

4:15 – 5:45 PM | Dr. Charley Sansur, Moderator, Management of Osteoarthritis and Discitis: Operative Techniques and Case-based Discussions

4:15 – 4:24 PM | Dr. Ken Crandall, Presenter, Operative Technique for Treatment of Thoracic Kyphosis Secondary to Progressive Thoracic Vertebral Osteomyelitis

5:45 - 7:15 PM | Dr. Ken Crandall, Moderator, Section on Disorders of the Spines and Peripheral Nerve

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

8:12 – 8:18 AM | Dr. Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, Presenter, "MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound thalamotomy of the central lateral nucleus for neuropathic pain: an interim and technical analysis"

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

Dr. Alex Ksendzovsky will also be in attendance.

Dr. Tim Chryssikos will have three digital posters:

- "Fracture patterns and outcome of bedside closed skeletal traction in traumatic unilateral locked facet of the subaxial cervical spine"
- "Incidence and outcome of vertebral artery injury due to unilateral locked facet of the subaxial cervical spine"
- "Predictors of vertebral artery injury in acute unilateral locked facet of the subaxial cervical spine"

OCTOBER 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

OCTOBER EVENTS

Thu, October 14th - Wed, October 20th	SNS/CNS Conferences Austin, TX
Tue, October 19 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Faculty Mentoring Workshop Remotely
Tue, October 26 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Faculty Mentoring Workshop Remotely
Tue, October 26 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Department Happy Hour! Forno Restaurant & Wine Bar
Thu, October 28 5:30 PM	Journal Club with Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer

October

M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU
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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	29	30	31

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, November 20 TBA	Neuroanatomy Dissection Course AXIS Labs
Fri, December 3 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews In-Person & Zoom
Wed, December 15 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Holiday Party! The Center Club
Fri, December 17 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews In-Person & Zoom
Fri, January 7 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews In-Person & Zoom
Fri, January 28 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews In-Person & Zoom

Holidays

National Emergency Nurse's Day
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

World Spine Day
Saturday, October 16, 2021

National Medical Assistants Day
Thursday, October 21, 2021

National First Responders Day
Thursday, October 28, 2021

World Stroke Day
Friday, October 29, 2021

 **Happy Halloween!**
Sunday, October 31, 2021



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



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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

