

CO-SIGN

College Student Interest Group in Neurology

Reference Manual





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Starting a CO-SIGN Chapter

- Choose a faculty advisor who has the time, energy and enthusiasm to support and guide the group.
- Submit the completed registration form to Cheryl Alementi at calementi@aan.com.
- Elect officers and begin the process of organizing the group, choosing and planning activities, inviting speakers, locating additional funding, etc.
- Maintain regular contact with officers.
- Develop a list of goals and activities.
- Plan regular meetings of officers and the entire CO-SIGN chapter.
- Advertise the benefits of CO-SIGN membership.

Running a CO-SIGN Chapter

Every school has different goals for their CO-SIGN chapter and should run their chapter the way it best suits that school's students, environment, and schedule, using the chapter bylaws as a guideline.

- Publicize planned events well in advance via email, the campus newspaper, bulletin boards, class announcements, webpage, etc., to encourage attendance. Send reminders.
- Provide refreshments and keep your receipts.
- Submit your expense reimbursement form and receipts to the AAN. Apply for your expense funds throughout the year; the funds do not carry over to the next year.
- Keep track of number of times the group meets, how many attended, what topic was discussed, and any new activity ideas and suggestions for the end-of-year report that is due June 30 each year.
- Maintain a record book that will contain all the details, forms, and contact information that next year's officers will need to assure a good transition and continuity.
- Be sure to distribute to all CO-SIGN members the newsletters and information that the AAN sends to you. AAN material is only sent to the faculty advisor and the chapter president, so you need to see that everyone interested is able to see the material.
- Create and maintain a network of faculty, local neurologists, residents and medical students interested in CO-SIGN by hosting social events.
- Recruit new members by marketing the CO-SIGN chapter activities to new students.
- Elect and train the chapter president for the coming year to ensure continuity of information and activities from one year to the next.
- Work as a team: encourage members' participation and delegate duties.
- Work as a leader: draw out quiet people; keep everyone organized and on schedule.
- Spread your enthusiasm; acknowledge and praise the work that members do. Write thank you notes.
- Keep everyone informed, pre- and post-meeting; notify the AAN of officer and advisor changes.
- Most importantly, relax and have fun with people who share your interest in neurology.



Chapter President's "To Do" List

1. **Keep track of expenses** incurred and save receipts. The chapter is entitled to \$400 a year, every year. To receive your chapter's reimbursement funds, submit an expense form with your receipts to Cheryl Alementi.
2. **Keep track of CO-SIGN activities** during the year. In March you, as president, will be asked to complete a one-page End-of-Year Report, listing what the chapter did during the year.
3. **Keep in contact with your SIGN partner chapter president** and share CO-SIGN ideas and activities with your CO-SIGN chapter.
4. **Keep all forms and instructions in a folder** to pass on to next year's chapter president, along with marketing materials and helpful hints on how to run a successful chapter. This folder should also include bylaws, activity ideas, weblinks, and contact information.
5. Be sure to incorporate **community service activities** into your chapter's activities, such as charity walks or Brain Awareness Week.
6. Keep the AAN informed of **changes in officers and faculty advisors**.
7. CO-SIGN is fun! Have a great time!

To request or submit forms or other information, contact Cheryl Alementi at calementi@aan.com or 651-695-2737 (fax 651-361-4837).



Suggested CO-SIGN Chapter Activities

This list is a compilation of some of the past activities of CO-SIGN chapters. Feel free to choose the ideas that work for your chapter. If you have suggestions for unique group activities, please send them to Cheryl Alementi at calementi@aan.com and they will be added to this list to share with other chapters.

Speakers

Invite professors, neurologists in private practice, attendings and residents to speak to CO-SIGN members.

Topics:

1. Neurology Overview
2. Lifestyle Issues: Why Become a Neurologist? or Life of a Neurology Resident
3. Subspecialties: Neuro-ophthalmology, Pediatric Neurology, Behavioral Neurology, etc.
4. Different Practices: Urban, Rural, Teaching Hospital, Private Practice, etc.
5. Specific Groups: Residents, Women in Neurology, Minorities in Neurology, etc.
6. Case Presentations: Parkinson's, Stroke, Headache, etc.
7. Hands-On Skills Workshops: Neurology Exams, EEG, EMG, MRI, etc.
8. Create Interdisciplinary Expert Panels: Joint efforts between Neurology and Psychiatry, other specialties and subspecialties, using residents and faculty
9. Seminars on managing finances, the application process, interviewing, choosing a residency, fellowships, running a practice, research, technology (PDAs, etc.), time management or stress management

Hints:

- Make sure speakers are enthusiastic and entertaining.
- Encourage student participation whenever possible.
- Videos keep presentations interesting.
- Pizza always helps attract students to talks.
- Don't schedule near exam times.
- Advertise in as many ways as possible.
- Call all participants the night before the presentations to remind them about topics, places and times.
- Write thank you letters to the speakers.
- Keep lists of good speakers for future reference. Involve residents, fellows and faculty, as well as outside volunteers.
- Keep costs low by such methods as co-sponsoring talks: If you schedule a female neurologist to present, ask the American Medical Women's Association to co-sponsor and help with expenses.
- Host a wine/cheese reception or luncheon after Grand Rounds to get to know faculty.
- Use videoclips of neuro patients.

Mentorships

Match students with an attending or resident mentor to shadow during the first and second years of medical school.

Hints:

- Host a luncheon or reception to introduce fellow students to CO-SIGN
- Match students up with mentors in their area of interest whenever possible.
- Don't place a student who is interested in adult neurology with a pediatric neurologist.
- Make sure mentor is enthusiastic and accessible.
- Encourage mentors to give demonstrations: EEG, EMG, etc.
- Encourage students to attend grand rounds and pathology brain cutting.
- Allow students to organize their own schedules.
- Let the student decide if he or she will come into the hospital weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.
- Over or under scheduling time commitment will lead to disinterest.
- Encourage students to clearly define a schedule. This increases the likelihood of continued involvement.
- Write thank you letters to all mentors.
- Keep lists of good mentors for future reference.
- Schedule a "Dinner with the Professors" to acquaint students with faculty.
- Invite students to Department social events.

Field Trips

1. Visit different practice settings: hospital, clinic, private practice, etc. Arrange for patient interactions.
2. Tour a research facility or medical library
3. Watch neurosurgery in progress
4. Visit a Sleep Clinic and watch a sleep study
5. Visit museums and find neurology in art and sculpture
6. Watch a neuropathologist do brain sectioning
7. Attend movies/theater on neurology-related topics for discussion
8. Introduce neurology to children in K-12 classrooms with the Neuroscience in the Classroom activities provided on the AAN website
9. Arrange joint activities with a nearby SIGN or CO-SIGN chapter.

Meeting Ideas:

- Play Brainstorm, Neurology Jeopardy, or other neurology-related games or contests.
- Sponsor a faculty tea or wine and cheese reception to interact with faculty and residents.
- Discussion group on neurology-related books and movies, such as "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" or "Awakenings".
- Hold reviews prior to exams

Sponsor an Orientation Fair Booth for New Students or Career Day Activities

Introduce first year students to neurology.

Create CO-SIGN Marketing and Promotional Materials

1. Capturing first and second year students will ensure continuity of chapter activities.
2. Good advertising ensures good attendance.

Work with your SIGN chapter at a nearby medical school.

Create a Student-Run Information Website, List Serve, Newsletter or Bulletin Board for the Latest News in Neurology

Participate in Mental Health Awareness Week, Brain Awareness Week, or Charity Walks/Runs
Sponsor a child safety program in area grade schools, i.e., helmet safety.

Volunteer at a Free Clinic or VA Hospital or Other Community Service Opportunities

Partner with other interest groups at your school in activities, i.e., Psychiatry Interest Group.

Create a Book Exchange For Textbooks and Recreational Reading

Hold a Book Drive for a Third World Country in need of textbooks

Hold Fundraisers to Generate Chapter Funds and Interest in CO-SIGN
Print CO-SIGN T-shirts with logos provided by the AAN.



Chapter Guidelines

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be College Student Interest Group in Neurology (CO-SIGN).

Article II Affiliation and Support

The organization shall be affiliated with the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee (UES) of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). The AAN staff liaison assigned to the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology shall be available to support the activities of CO-SIGN.

Article III Local Chapters / Organization Structure

The organization shall consist of chapters established at colleges and universities. All students interested in neurology are eligible to join the chapter.

Article IV Purpose

- To make students aware of opportunities available in the field of Neurology.
- To further neurologic knowledge of students.
- To provide opportunities for students to participate in activities related to the field of Neurology including: discussions by Neurologists, patient presentations, seminars, journal clubs, learning materials and arranged shadowing of Neurologists in the workplace.

Article V Membership

- A. All students, faculty, and staff of college or university may become members.
- B. Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis upon review by the existing chapter officers.
- C. Chapter members shall be removed at any time by a vote of the majority of the chapter members.

Article VI Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly or as called by the Chapter President. Chapter Officers will develop agendas and handle arrangements for all meetings.

Article VII Officers

- A. Chapter Officers:

A President and Faculty Advisor will be the required chapter officers of CO-SIGN. Each individual chapter may elect additional officers at their discretion. Any full time medical student from the chapter institution may serve as an officer. The President will serve a two year term. The Faculty Advisor shall serve until he/she relinquishes the position or may be removed by a majority vote of chapter members.

B. Duties:

The President shall preside at meetings of CO-SIGN. The President shall be responsible to the AAN Undergraduate Education Subcommittee. The Faculty Advisor is responsible for generating ideas, serving as a resource person, and providing continuity to the organization. Each chapter may define the duties of any additional officers.

C. Election of Chapter Officers:

Election of officers shall take place at a bi-annual business meeting called by the President. A nominating committee composed of the current officers shall develop a slate. Nominations may be accepted from the floor. Election shall be a majority of chapter members present. Election of a new Faculty Advisor shall be made by a majority vote of chapter members.

Article VIII Proposed Changes in the Guidelines

Proposed changes will be submitted in writing to the President of a local chapter at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the chapter. The vote for such changes may be carried by a majority of the members present. The proposed change will then be submitted to the Chair of the UES of the American Academy of Neurology at least 60 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Subcommittee. Prior to the meeting, the Chair will seek input from other chapters regarding the proposed changes. UES will vote on proposed changes and these may be carried by a majority of members present.

Article IX Budget

Funds for local chapter activities are provided by the American Academy of Neurology. Each chapter may raise additional funds as necessary.

Article X Non-Discrimination Clause

This organization will not discriminate within or outside the greater University community on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disablement, or economic status. Specifically, this organization does not determine or limit membership, voting privileges or leadership positions based on any of the factors listed above. Further, this organization will not practice or promote prejudice or intimidation, and each local chapter will abide by the University policy on ethnic intimidation that is in place at that institution.

Revised 4/19/06

Contact: Cheryl Alementi
Phone: 651-695-2737
Email: calementi@aan.com



Marketing Your CO-SIGN Chapter

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2. Why Join CO-SIGN?
3. Why Join AAN?
4. What is AAN?
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DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- CO-SIGN is the best place for college students to explore the field of neurology?
- CO-SIGN is where you will meet fellow students, medical students, residents, and faculty with your same interests?
- There are 151 SIGN chapters in medical schools and 23 CO-SIGN chapters in colleges in North America?
- The most popular CO-SIGN activity is a lunchtime seminar?
- All chapters are eligible for \$400 for expenses?
- The AAN website has medical student information and a CO-SIGN webpage
(<http://www.aan.com/go/education/students/college>)?



Why join the College Student Interest Group in Neurology?

Free CO-SIGN membership will enable you to:

- Socialize with students, residents and faculty throughout the U.S. and Canada who share your interest in neurology
- Shadow neurologists
- Find a mentor
- Attend patient presentations and seminars
- Start a journal club
- Participate in community service activities such as bringing Brain Awareness Week to grade school children
- Develop experience, leadership and valuable contacts
- Each CO-SIGN chapter receives \$400 a year in expense reimbursement



What is the American Academy of Neurology?

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), established in 1948, is an international professional association of more than 20,000 neurologists and neuroscience professionals dedicated to providing the best possible care for patients with neurological disorders.

The AAN is strongly committed to its mission and focuses its efforts on ensuring the reality of the principles and standards set forth in the AAN mission statement.

Mission Statement

The American Academy of Neurology is a medical specialty society established to advance the art and science of neurology, and thereby promote the best possible care for patients with neurological disorders by:

- Ensuring appropriate access to neurological care.
- Supporting and advocating for an environment which ensures ethical, high quality neurological care.
- Providing excellence in professional education by offering a variety of programs in both the clinical aspects of neurology and the basic neuroscience to physicians and allied health professionals.
- Supporting clinical and basic research in the neurosciences and related fields.



What is The Student Interest Group in Neurology?

The American Academy of Neurology is working to stimulate medical students' interest in neurology. The AAN inaugurated the Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) program in 1998, with the endorsement of the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) and the American Neurological Association (ANA). There are currently 151 SIGN chapters at North American medical schools.

The purpose of SIGN is to introduce medical students to the field of neurology by bringing them together with fellow students with similar interests through discussions by neurologists, patient presentations, seminars, journal clubs, learning materials, and arranged shadowings of neurologists in the workplace. Medical students become aware of opportunities, and participate in activities, related to the field of neurology, creating a new generation of neurologists and AAN members.

SIGN's college outreach initiative, the College Student Interest Group in Neurology (CO-SIGN), brings together college and pre-med students interested in neurology with SIGN chapters, allowing SIGN members to teach, mentor, and lead CO-SIGN members as they explore neurology. There are currently 23 CO-SIGN chapters.

The AAN supports SIGN and CO-SIGN chapters by supplying \$400 per year to use for food, copying, and other miscellaneous expenses. SIGN members are also eligible to apply for the Medical Student Annual Meeting travel scholarship of \$1,000 and the Medical Student Summer Research Scholarship of \$3,000.

SIGN meets once a year at the Annual Meeting, where a panel of experts speaks on career choices, chapter representatives share their chapter's activities with the group, and a reception follows to socialize and share ideas.

For more information, contact Cheryl Alementi at 651-695-2737 or email calementi@aan.com.



Choosing the Medical Subspecialty of Neurology

Introduction

This document provides general information for students who may be considering a career in neurology. Those seeking more specific information about the specialty should contact the American Academy of Neurology or the appropriate organization listed below in resources.

About the Specialty

Neurology is a scientific research and clinical specialty that offers an exciting and intellectual avenue for those interested in brain and nervous system disorders. Included are disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles in both adults and children.

Recent neurologic advances now allow the accurate diagnosis and treatment of many severely disabling disorders considered unapproachable 20 years ago. Breakthroughs in understanding and treatment of other nervous system illnesses seem imminent, making neurology one of the most dynamic fields in medicine. Indeed, Congress and the President have declared the 1990s the "Decade of the Brain" to encourage further progress in brain science and in the treatment of brain diseases.

Neurologists treat patients who have a variety of disorders including stroke, headache, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, dystonia, muscular dystrophy, peripheral nerve diseases, dizziness, infection, tumor, traumatic injuries of the nervous system, mental retardation, learning disorders and Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases. Some neurologists are also engaged in neurorehabilitation.

Practicing neurologists often have the responsibility for diagnosis, acute- and long-term care and rehabilitation, while academic neurologists also train new neurologists. Both use modern scientific methods to better understand and treat neurologic illness.

Adult neurology is tied strongly to general and internal medicine as child neurology is to general pediatrics. Both overlap considerably with the field of biological psychiatry.

Individuals are often drawn to neurology when in high school or college because of their fascination with the biological basis of human behavior. Many study psychology, biology, chemistry, and biophysics, though the field includes students from the entire range of scholastic endeavors.

Educational and Training Requirements

To become a neurologist in the United States, extensive education and training is required. An individual must first graduate from an accredited medical school with either an MD or DO degree. Graduates of non-U.S. or Canadian medical schools must pass the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).

Medical students who choose to specialize in neurology must enroll in an accredited neurology residency program. Residency programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) provide supervised neurology experience in both hospital and ambulatory care settings. Educational conferences and research training are also part of a neurology residency.

Physicians specializing in adult neurology complete three years of neurology residency preceded by one year of internship with a minimum of eight months in internal medicine. Those specializing in child neurology spend two years in a general pediatric residency, or a year each in internal medicine and pediatrics, or one year in research and a year in pediatrics. Residents in child neurology then spend at least one year in adult and two years in a pediatric neurology service.

Board Certification

Upon completion of residency training, neurologists may seek certification from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). To be eligible for certification, applicants must have:

- An unrestricted state license to practice medicine
- Completed the required years of residency
- Successfully passed both a written (Part I) and oral (Part II) exam administered by the ABPN.

Medical school graduates seeking entry to neurology residency programs should consult the Directory of Graduate Medical Education Programs (Green Book), published by the American Medical Association. The Neurology Matching Program (NEMP) is a national system for application and selection in adult neurology training programs.

More About the Specialty

In the United States, neurologic illness comprises 15 to 20 percent of general medical care. As effective therapies are developed for more neurologic diseases, and some diseases, such as Alzheimer's increase in prevalence, the demand for neurologists will increase. Many neurologists have major subspecialty expertise and care for patients with particular subclasses of diseases such as neuromuscular disorders, epilepsy, neuro-oncology, behavioral disorders, dementia, movement disorders, stroke, and neuro-visual disorders, or may specialize in neurorehabilitation or neurogenetics.

The practice of neurology is especially exhilarating. It affords the neurologist unique insights into the function of the human nervous system, from movement and sensation to thought and creativity. Neurologists are major contributors to many of the most recent advances in the neurosciences and continuously strive to convert new basic science knowledge into better therapies for patients with disease of the nervous system.



CO-SIGN Forms

1. Chapter Registration
2. End-of-Year Report
3. Brochure Order Form
4. Links
5. Neuroscience at the Movies
6. Neuroscience in Literature
7. SIGN Chapter List
8. CO-SIGN Chapter List

For Expense Reimbursement Forms please contact
Cheryl Alementi at calementi@aan.com or 651-695-2737.

For AAN Membership Forms,
download from the AAN website at www.aan.com/go/membership/join.



CO-SIGN Chapter Registration Sheet

School Name _____

Address _____

Faculty Contact _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

FAX _____

SIGN Chapter Contact _____

School Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

FAX _____

CO-SIGN Chapter President _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

FAX _____

Names of Officers _____

Faculty Contact Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please return to: Cheryl Alementi
American Academy of Neurology
1080 Montreal Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116
FAX: 651-361-4837
Email: calementi@aan.com



CO-SIGN Chapter End-of-Year Report for Academic Year _____

Name of Institution _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

CO-SIGN Chapter President: _____

Number of current members _____ Number of times met during this year _____

For each event, please list approximate number of attendees.

Type of Event	Month Held	Number of Attendees	Medical Students	Residents	Faculty

Please list other types of activities sponsored by the chapter (i.e., attendings, etc.)..

Did the chapter participate in community service and/or college outreach this year?

Please tell us if there are other things that the Academy could do to support the chapters?

Signed _____ Title _____ Date _____



CO-SIGN Order Sheet for AAN Materials

Fax to: 651-361-4800

Up to 25 Copies of each brochure may be ordered by a CO-SIGN Chapter free of charge.

Thank you for your order!

Call toll free 1-800-879-1960

Ordered By _____
 Institution Name _____
 Address _____
 Suite or Apt. number _____
 City _____ State _____
 Postal Code _____
 Daytime Phone Number _____
 Fax Number _____

Ship To: (if different from "Ordered By")
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Suite or Apt. number _____
 City _____ State _____
 Postal Code _____
 Daytime Phone Number _____

Item #	Description	Quantity	Total
	AAN Membership Brochure (Invest In Your Future)		
	Sensitive but Sensible		
	What is a Neurologist?		
	Choosing the Specialty of Neurology		
	Understanding Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis		
	Understanding Alzheimer's Disease		
	Understanding Epilepsy		
	Understanding Stroke		
	Understanding Multiple Sclerosis		
	Understanding Migraine		
	Understanding Myasthenia Gravis		
	Understanding Brain Injury		
	Understanding Sleep Disorders		
	Understanding Dystonia		
NA	AAN Partners Program		
NA	Student Loan Consolidation Brochure		

Up to 25 copies of each brochure may be ordered by a CO-SIGN Chapter free of charge.



Links

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

515 North State Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60610-4322
Phone: (312) 755-5000
Website: www.acgme.org

American Board of Medical Specialties

1007 Church Street, Suite 404
Evanston, IL 60201-5913
Phone: (847) 491-9091
Website: www.abms.org

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

500 Lake Cook Road, Suite 335
Deerfield, IL 60015
Phone: (847) 945-7900
Website: www.abpn.com

American Medical Association

515 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: (800)-621-8335
Website: www.ama-assn.org

American Medical Association (AMA) Student Section

www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14.html

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

www.amsa.org/

American Neurological Association

5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite #204
Minneapolis, MN 55416
Phone: (952)-545-6284
www.aneuroa.org

American Psychiatric Association

1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209-3901
Phone: (703) 907-7300
Website: www.psych.org

Association of American Medical Colleges

2450 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1126
Phone: (202)828-0400

Website: www.aamc.org

Or

National Residency Matching Program

2450 N Street, NW

Washington, DC 20037-1127

Phone: (866) 617-5838 or (202) 828-0566 for applicants

Phone: (866) 617-5837 or (202) 828-0676 for programs

Website: www.aamc.org/nrmp

<http://www.aamc.org/students/cim/>

<http://www.aamc.org/meded/start.htm>

<http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/start.htm>

Association of University Professors of Neurology

5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite #204

Minneapolis, MN 55416

Phone: (952)545-6724

Website: www.aupn.org

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

3624 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685

Phone: (215)386-5900

Website: www.ecfm.org

Society for Neuroscience

1121 14th Street, NW, Suite 1010

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202)962--4000

Email: info@sfn.org

Website: www.sfn.org

The Brain Museum

<http://brainmuseum.org/>

Becoming a doctor

<http://www.mommd.com/toughdecision.shtml>

Becoming a doctor

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/becoming-a-doctor.htm>

CareerMD.com

www.careermd.com/

E-Medicine—neuro articles

<http://www.emedicine.com/neuro/byname/>

Internet Handbook of Neurology

<http://www.neuropat.dote.hu/neurology.htm#nexam>

Medical Scientist Training Programs--A guidebook for MD/PhDs

<http://intransit.us/guidebook/>

Medical Student Resource Guide

<http://www.studentdoc.com/>

Medical Student.com

www.medicalstudent.com/

Medscape

<http://www.medscape.com/neurology-home>

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/index.htm>

National Library of Medicine and National Institute of Health abstract search

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>

and medical information page: <http://www.medlineplus.org/>

Neurology Channel

<http://www.neurologychannel.com/aneurologist.shtml>

Neurology Journal

<http://www.neurology.org/>

Neuroscience for Kids

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

Student Doctor Network

www.studentdoctor.net/links/

Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

<http://www.snma.org/>

Surviving Medical School

<http://fmignet.aafp.org/x40.xml>

The Brain Connection

<http://www.brainconnection.com/>

The Brain Matters

<http://thebrainmatters.org/index.cfm?key=1.1.1>

2005 National Health Observances

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/nhoyear.asp?year=2008>

Neuroscience at the Movies

A Beautiful Mind	2001	Schizophrenia
A.I.: Artificial Intelligence	2001	Artificial intelligence, ethics
Afraid of Dark	1991	Vision, perception, neurodegenerative disease
As Good As It Gets	1997	Obsessive-compulsive disorder, phobias
At First Sight	1996	Visual perception, surgery
Autism is a World	2005	Autism
Awakenings	1990	Encephalitis, Parkinsonism, treatment of mental illness
Benny and Joon	1993	Mental illness
Brainscan	1994	Memory, hypnosis, virtual reality
Brainstorm	1983	Memory, nervous system/technology, perception, ethics
Brain Damage	1988	Disembodied brain, addiction, neuropharmacology
Blade Runner	1982	Artificial intelligence, ethics
Charly	1968	Mental retardation, experimental brain surgery
Clean Slate	1994	Korsakoff's Syndrome, memory, brain injury
Coma	1978	Coma
Coming Home	1978	Spinal injury, recovery of function
Dark Victory	1939	Brain tumor, terminal illness, vision
Darkman	1990	Brain/spinal surgery
Deep Blue Sea	1999	Alzheimer's Disease, genetics, neuropharmacology
eXistenZ	1999	Nervous system and technology, virtual reality, perception, implantation
Flatliners	1990	Death, clinical experimentation, ethics
Jacob's Ladder	1990	Death and nervous system, psychopharmacology
Lawnmower Man	1993	Nervous system and technology, artificial intelligence
Lorenzo's Oil	1992	Nervous system, adrenoleukodystrophy
Marnie	1964	Dissociation, psychogenic fugue
Memento	2000	Memory, anterograde amnesia
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	1975	Psychopathology, electroconvulsive treatment, ethics
Outbreak	1995	Neurodegenerative disease, ethics
Quills	2000	18 th century treatment of mental illness
Rainman	1988	Autistic savant
Re-animator	1985	Neuropharmacology, ethics
Regarding Henry	1991	Brain injury, recovery of function
Resident Evil	2002	Amnesia, artificial intelligence, genetics, ethics
Sleepy Hollow	1999	Historic neuroscience
Strange Days	1995	Memory, memory transfer, nervous system and technology, perception, imaging
The Fisher King	1991	Schizophrenia, treatment
The Green Mile	1999	Brain tumor
The Road to Wellville	1994	Neural stimulation, historic neuroscience, ethics
The Secret of NIMH	1982	Science and society, neuroscience methods
The Serpent and the Rainbow	1988	Neuropharmacology
The Terminal Man	1974	Brain surgery, neural stimulation, seizures
The Wild Child	1969	Language, learning, nature/nurture

Neuroscience in Literature

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (born in 1564, died in 1616) is perhaps the most well-known English poet and playwright in the world. Was he also an amateur neurologist? Many of Shakespeare's plays contain characters who appear to be afflicted by neurological disorders. Although he did not use the modern terms for the disorders, Shakespeare was very clear in his descriptions of various neurological symptoms. Here is a list of his plays and the possible neurological disorder affecting a character in the play:

Name of Play	Neurological Disorder
Troilus and Cressida.....	Tremor
Part 2, Henry VI.....	Tremor (possibly Parkinson's disease)
Part 2, Henry VI.....	Paralysis (possibly due to a stroke)
Measure for Measure.....	Paralysis
Julius Caesar.....	Epilepsy ("falling sickness")
King Lear.....	Dementia and possible schizophrenia
Much Ado About Nothing	Dementia
Twelfth Night.....	Dementia (possibly hepatic encephalopathy)
Macbeth.....	Sleepwalking (somnambulism)
Macbeth.....	Sleeptalking (somniloquism)
Macbeth.....	Insomnia
Macbeth.....	Nightmares
Henry IV.....	Insomnia
Henry IV.....	Sleep Apnea
Richard III.....	Nightmares

References:

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- C. Furman, Y., Wolf, S.M., Rosenfeld, D.S., Shakespeare and sleep disorders, Neurology, 49:1171-1172, 1997.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly : A Memoir of Life in Death

by [Jean-Dominique Bauby](#)

In December of 1995, Jean-Dominique Bauby, 43 year old editor in chief of Elle magazine in France, suffered a stroke which severely damaged his brain stem. After several weeks in a coma, he woke to find that he was one of the rare victims of a condition called "locked-in syndrome" or LIS, which had left his mind functioning but his body almost completely paralyzed. In a perverse sense he actually got fairly lucky because, unlike most victims, he was still able to move one eyelid. This allowed him to work out, with a speech therapist, a system of communication which entailed winking as someone slowly read through the alphabet. By using this code, he could painstakingly spell out words, sentences, paragraphs and, finally, this memoir.

The title of the book refers to the metaphors he uses to describe his situation. The physical paralysis leaves him feeling as if he was trapped within a diving bell, as if there is constant pressure pinning his body into immobility. However, at the same time, his mind remains as free as a butterfly and its flights are as random. In fact, he calls the chapters of this book his "bedridden travel notes" and, indeed, they eloquently relate his journey through memory.

More to come....

Non-fiction

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat
By Oliver Sacks, MD

Awakenings
By Oliver Sacks, MD

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As of 11/8/07

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