



*Student Interest Group in Neurology*

# Reference Manual



**SIGN Website: <https://www.aan.com/trainees/medical-student-resources/student-interest-groups-in-neurology/>**



## 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 over 150 SIGN chapters at schools throughout the world.

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, including opportunities for research, creating a new generation of neurologists and AAN members.

The AAN supports SIGN chapters by supplying \$400 per year to use for food, copying, and other miscellaneous expenses to U.S. and Canadian SIGN chapters. 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.

There are several SIGN discussions during the AAN Annual Meeting, where experts speak on career choices. Chapter representatives share their chapter's activities with the group.

For more information, contact [sign@aan.com](mailto:sign@aan.com) or (612) 928-6073.



## **Why join the Student Interest Group in Neurology?**

**Free SIGN membership** will enable you to:

- Socialize with students, residents and faculty who share your interest in neurology
- Shadow neurologists
- Find a mentor
- Attend patient presentations and seminars
- Attend the AAN Annual Meeting as a SIGN representative
- Develop experience, leadership and valuable contacts
- Apply for SIGN scholarships:
  - \$3,000 Summer Research Scholarship
  - \$1,000 Annual Meeting Scholarship
- PLUS, each SIGN chapter in the U.S. and Canada receives \$400 a year in expense reimbursement.



## **Starting a SIGN Chapter**

1. Choose a faculty advisor who has the time, energy and enthusiasm to support and guide the group.
2. Submit the completed registration form via the SIGN webpage on AAN.com.
3. Elect officers and begin the process of organizing the group, choosing and planning activities, inviting speakers, locating additional funding, etc. Each chapter may raise additional funds as necessary.
4. Maintain regular contact with officers.
5. Develop a list of goals and activities.
6. Plan regular meetings of officers and the entire SIGN chapter.
7. Advertise the benefits of SIGN membership and AAN membership.

## Running a SIGN Chapter

Every school has different goals for their 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.

1. Publicize planned events well in advance via email, the campus newspaper, bulletin boards, class announcements, webpage, etc., to encourage attendance. Send reminders.
2. Provide refreshments and keep your receipts.
3. Submit your expense reimbursement form and receipts to the AAN following each event. The funds do not carry over to the next year.
4. Each chapter may raise additional funds, as necessary.
5. Keep track of number of times the group meets, how many attended, what topic was discussed, and any new activity ideas and suggestions.
6. 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.
7. Be sure to distribute to all SIGN members the information i.e. scholarship applications etc. 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.
8. Create and maintain a network of faculty, local neurologists, residents and medical students interested in SIGN by hosting social events.
9. Recruit new members by marketing the SIGN chapter activities to new students.
10. Elect and train the chapter president for the coming year to ensure continuity.
11. Work as a team: encourage members' participation and delegate duties.
12. Work as a leader: draw out quiet people; keep everyone organized and on schedule.
13. Spread your enthusiasm; acknowledge and praise the work that members do. Write thank you notes.
14. Keep everyone informed, pre- and post-meeting; notify the AAN of officer and advisor changes.
15. Most importantly, relax and have fun with people who share your interest in neurology.
16. Invite an individual involved in research to attend one meeting per year to present opportunities in a research career.



## Chapter President's "To Do" List

1. Keep track of expenses incurred and save receipts. Every US and Canadian chapter is entitled to \$400 every academic year. To receive your chapter's reimbursement funds, first submit a Budget Use Form via the SIGN webpage on AAN.com before the event or purchase. After approval you will need to email or surface mail an expense form (found on the SIGN webpage) as well as the receipts within 30 days of when the expense is incurred. Each chapter may raise additional funds, as necessary.
2. Be sure to distribute scholarship information to members. Specifically, the Annual Meeting Scholarship (\$1,000) and Research Scholarship (\$3,000).
3. Keep chapter information together 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 activity ideas, web-links, and contact information.
4. Be sure to incorporate community service activities like charity walks or health fairs into your chapter's activities.
5. Keep the AAN informed of change in officers and faculty advisor(s).

To request forms or other information contact Maggie Rock at [mrock@aan.com](mailto:mrock@aan.com) or (612) 928-6073.



## Scholarships Available to SIGN Members

### Medical Student Scholarship to the Annual Meeting

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) are working together to stimulate medical students' interest in neurology programs and are jointly offering a scholarship to fund medical students' attendance at the AAN Annual Meeting. Forty **\$1,000** scholarships are available to SIGN chapter presidents or a designated SIGN representative in the U.S. and Canada who are nominated by their Clerkship Director or SIGN Faculty Advisor.

Scholarships are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a member of the AAN; preference will be given to SIGN chapter leadership
- Application must include CV, letter of interest outlining SIGN leadership and activities
- Scholarship will be given to no more than one student per institution
- The department chair will provide a supplemental grant to the student so that all expenses can be covered.
- The student must attend the SIGN meeting at the AAN Annual Meeting in order to receive the scholarship. The award will be mailed to the student after the Annual Meeting.

If you have questions about this process or need SIGN Chapter application materials, please contact Cheryl Alementi at [calementi@aan.com](mailto:calementi@aan.com) or (612) 928-6073.

### Medical Student Summer Research Scholarship

The AAN's Undergraduate Education Subcommittee (UES) sponsors the Medical Student Summer Research Scholarship program. The scholarship program was established to stimulate students to pursue careers in neurology in either research or practice settings.

The scholarship program offers members of the AAN's Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) program a summer stipend of **\$3,000** to conduct a project in either an institutional, clinical or laboratory setting where there are ongoing programs of research, service or training, or a private practice. Only applicants from U.S. or Canadian schools with established SIGN chapters are eligible to apply and applicants must be a member of the AAN.

The AAN will award up to 20 scholarships to medical students with little to no research experience and who have a supporting preceptor and a project with clearly defined goals. The project is to be conducted through a U.S. or Canadian institution of the student's choice and jointly designed by the student and sponsoring institution.

For application forms and guidelines or SIGN chapter registration materials, contact Cheryl Alementi at [calementi@aan.com](mailto:calementi@aan.com) or (612) 928-6073.



## Suggested SIGN Chapter Activities

This list is a compilation of some of the past activities of 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 Maggie Rock at [mrock@aan.com](mailto:mrock@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 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
10. Research: Introduce students to opportunities in clinical and basic science neuroscience careers.

### 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 video clips of neurology 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 for each neurology rotation group to introduce them to 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 chapter.
10. Tour a successful research lab

## **Create a "Neuro Survival Manual" for students taking their neurology rotation**

## **Create a videotape for incoming neurology students on taking a neurologic history and performing a neurologic exam**

## **Assemble Research and Employment Opportunities Lists**

1. Identify available research positions and internships in neurology.
2. Apply for the SIGN Summer Research Scholarship.

## **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 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 Pre-Med Students to Introduce Them to Neurology**

1. Mentor pre-med students at SIGN activities and community service.

### **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**

### **Lobby Local, State and Federal Lawmakers on Health Care Issues**

You can work through the AAN Center for Health Policy (CHP) staff.

### **Lobby School Leadership on Neurology Rotations**

You can influence whether your school has a required third year neurology clerkship.

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

### **Journal Club**

Ask the advisor to supervise a journal club for SIGN members.

#### Hints:

- Use broadly based review articles.
- Make sure to meet at convenient times.
- Supply food if possible.
- See if participants can receive elective credit.
- Load articles on chapter website.

### **Create a Book Exchange for Textbooks and Recreational Reading**

### **Hold a Book Drive for a Third World Country in need of Textbooks**

### **Sponsor a Program Describing the Match Process**

Ask the advisor to supervise a program on the match process for SIGN members.



*Student Interest Group in Neurology*

## 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
Anastasia	1956	Amnesia
As Good As It Gets	1997	Obsessive-compulsive disorder, phobias
At First Sight	1996	Visual perception, surgery
Autism is a World	2005	Autism
Avatar	2009	Relation to nerve connections in the brain and consciousness
Awakenings	1990	Encephalitis, Parkinsonism, treatment of mental illness
Being There	1979	Mental Retardation
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
Children of a Lesser God	1986	Deafness
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
Dead Again	1991	Amnesia
Deep Blue Sea	1999	Alzheimer's Disease, genetics, neuropharmacology
eXistenZ	1999	Nervous system and technology, virtual reality, perception, implantation
Fearless	1993	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Flatliners	1990	Death, clinical experimentation, ethics
Forrest Gump	1993	Mental Retardation
Garbo Talks	1984	Brain Tumors
Greystoke: The Legen of Tarzan		
Lord of the Apes	1984	Language, learning, nature/nurture
Heart of the Dragon	1985	Mental Retardation
House of Cards	1993	Autism
Immortal Beloved	1994	Deafness
Jacob's Ladder	1990	Death and nervous system, psychopharmacology
Jungle Book	1942	Language, learning, nature/nurture
Lawnmower Man	1993	Nervous system and technology, artificial intelligence
Little Voice	1998	Autism
Lorenzo's Oil	1992	Nervous system, adrenoleukodystrophy
Marnie	1964	Dissociation, psychogenic fugue
Mercury Rising	1998	Autism
Memento	2000	Memory, anterograde amnesia
Nell	1994	Language, learning, nature/nurture

Mr. Holland's Opus	1995	Deafness
Of Mine and Men	1992	Mental Retardation
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	1975	Psychopathology, electroconvulsive treatment, ethics
Outbreak	1995	Neurodegenerative disease, ethics
Phenomenon	1996	Brain Tumors
Quest for Camelot	1998	Blindness
Quills	2000	18 <sup>th</sup> 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
Scent of a Woman	1992	Blindness
Sleepy Hollow	1999	Historic neuroscience
Sneakers	1992	Blindness
Spellbound	1945	Amnesia
Strange Days	1995	Memory, memory transfer, nervous system and technology, perception, imaging
The Boy Who Could Fly	1986	Autism
The Fisher King	1991	Schizophrenia, treatment
The Green Mile	1999	Brain tumor
The Horse Whisperer	1998	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
The Miracle Worker	1962	Deafness and Blindness
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
The Wizard	1989	Autism
Tim	1979	Mental Retardation
Wait Until Dark	1967	Blindness
What's Eating Gilbert Grape	1993	Mental Retardation
When the Whales Came	1989	Deafness
Who Am I?	1998	Amnesia
Creative Control	2016	Social cognition, perception, situated cognition
Chappie	2015	Philosophy of mind, evolution/animals, robotics
Concussion	2015	Clinical cases, neuroscience
DxM	2015	Philosophy of mind, neuroscience, evolution/animals
Ex Machina	2015	Philosophy of Mind, AI, Robotics, Social Cognition
Experimenter	2015	Psychology, social cognition
Inside Out	2015	Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, Memory, Perception
Self/less	2015	Memory, philosophy of mind, psychology
Stanford Prison Experiment, The	2015	Psychology, social cognition
Automata	2014	Robotics, Philosophy of mind, AI
Big Hero 6	2014	Robotics, AI, Social cognition
Imitation Game, The	2014	Intelligence, AI
Lucy	2014	Neuroscience, Intelligence
Justice is Mind	2013	Memory, neuroscience
Pacific Rim	2013	BCI, Robotics, Neuroscience
Free the Mind	2012	Neuroscience, clinical cases, psychology
Head Games	2012	Clinical cases, intelligence, psychology, neuroscience
Limitless	2011	Neuroscience, drugs, intelligence, memory



## 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:

<b>Name of Play</b>	<b>Neurological Disorder</b>
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:

- A. Bark N.M., Did Shakespeare know schizophrenia? The case of Poor Mad Tom in King Lear, Brit. J. Psychiat., 146:436-438, 1985.
- B. Fogan, L., The neurology of Shakespeare, Arch. Neurol., 46:922-924, 1989.
- 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



## **What is the American Academy of Neurology?**

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), established in 1948, is an international professional association of more than 30,000 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 mission of the American Academy of Neurology is to promote the highest quality patient-centered care and enhance member career satisfaction.

### **Vision**

To be indispensable to our members.



## **Why join the American Academy of Neurology?**

**Free student membership** in AAN includes:

- The member newsletter *AANnews*.
- FREE AAN Annual Meeting registration, which includes scientific platform and poster sessions, Plenary Sessions, Colloquiums, Awards Luncheon, Opening Party, Exhibits, reduced Annual Meeting course fees.
- Access to Medical Student [NeuroSAE](#)
- Members-only access to the AAN's web site
- Opportunity to be selected as an award recipient
- Subscribe to the [Neurology](#) journal at a reduced fee
- Volunteer opportunities in your field of interest
- An important addition to your professional portfolio/CV



## 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. There are opportunities to subspecialize in neurology. The United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS) is a non-profit professional medical organization that was incorporated in March 2003. It is sponsored by five parent organizations including the American Academy of Neurology, American Neurological Association, Association of University Professors of Neurology, Child Neurology Society, and Professors of Child Neurology. The primary mission of the UCNS is to accredit training programs in neurologic subspecialties and to certify competence in physicians who have completed an accredited training program, with the goal of enhancing the quality of training benefiting both physicians and patients.

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.

Fellowships in a number of neurological subspecialties are available after residency for subspecialty training or as preparation for a career in research.

## **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 exams 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 National Resident Match Program (NRMP) and the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) are national systems 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, or in research in these specialties.

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.



## Chapter Guidelines

### **Article I Name**

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

### **Article II Affiliation and Support**

The organization shall be affiliated with the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee (UES) of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN).

### **Article III Local Chapters / Organization Structure**

The organization shall consist of local chapters established at accredited medical schools. All full time medical students, faculty, and staff associated with the institution are eligible to join the chapter.

### **Article IV Purpose**

- To make medical students aware of opportunities available in the field of Neurology.
- To further neurologic knowledge of medical students.
  - To provide opportunities for medical 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 full time medical students, faculty, and staff of an accredited medical school 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 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 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, in accordance with *Principles Governing AAN Relationships with External Sources of Support*, <http://www.aan.com/globals/axon/assets/2304.pdf>. If funds are received from pharmaceutical or device companies, details concerning the amount and purpose of the funds shall be reported to Cheryl Alementi, AAN SIGN Staff Liaison at [calementi@aan.com](mailto:calementi@aan.com).

**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.

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