

Department of Neurological Surgery Newsletter

QUARTERLY - FALL - 2018

Letter from the Department Chair

Welcome to the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and UMass Memorial Health Care. This marks the inaugural edition of the Department of Neurological Surgery Newsletter. This year has been filled with firsts, including the first integrated cerebrovascular program between Neurological Surgery and Interventional Neuroradiology, the first NIH R01 grant in the Department, the first residency program in Neurological Surgery at UMass in 20 years, the first Neurological Surgery Retreat on Cape Cod, and others. We are excited about the atmosphere of community, cooperation and innovation that is growing here. This quarterly newsletter is a recognition and a celebration of our accomplishments and our people. We are thrilled to be a part of the UMass Department of Neurological Surgery's groundbreaking effort to transform neurosurgical care in New England and around the world.



Sincerely,

Mark D. Johnson, MD, PhD
Maroun Semaan Professor in Neurological Surgery
Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery
University of Massachusetts Medical School
UMass Memorial Health Care

In This Issue

Congratulations!
New Neurological Surgery
Residency Program: Accepting
Applications for 2019-2020
Dr. Cataltepe Explains New
Ventricular Shunt Medical Device
First Neurological Surgery Annual
Retreat at UMMS/UMMHC and
Seacrest Beach Hotel, Falmouth, MA
Spotlight: Norma Mills
Department Update
Congratulations

Dr. Johnson Talks about Diversity in Medicine on NPR

Mark Johnson, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, recently joined Meghna Chakrabarti, host of National Public Radio's On Point, to provide insight on the lack of diversity in medicine. The panel discussed the recent NBC News article, "The Death of Black Men in Medicine Is Worrisome." Dr. Johnson said, "As there are successes – high-profile successes – of African Americans who have achieved in a variety of areas, there has been a narrative that the problem has been solved." Listen to the complete interview by clicking the link below.

Why Are There So Few Black Men Going Into Medicine?

*Interested in supporting research and education in the
Department of Neurological Surgery?*

*Donate to the Neurological Surgery Research
and Education Fund.*

Contact Maria Leitao-Pina:
Maria.LeitaoPina@umassmed.edu or 508-856-1513

Congratulations!

New Neurological Surgery Residency Program: Accepting Applications for 2019-2020

New Residency Program

The Residency Program in Neurological Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School is designed to provide each resident with comprehensive training in neurological surgery while also equipping him/her with the skills needed to become a successful scientific investigator and educator in neurological surgery. We are committed to training the next generation of neurosurgeon-scientists, educators and leaders in the field of neurological surgery. Our residency program is directed by Mark D. Johnson, MD, PhD, FAANS.

Clinical training in the Residency Program in Neurological Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School occurs at UMass Memorial Medical Center, the flagship hospital

of UMass Memorial Health Care. Clinical training occurs on two campuses of the medical center (the University campus and the Memorial campus). The clinical training program covers all of the major areas of neurological surgery, including:

- Neurosurgical-Oncology (Pituitary and skull base tumors, primary brain and spinal tumors, metastatic disease)
- Epilepsy Surgery



- Cerebrovascular (Extracranial and intracranial microsurgery, endovascular surgery)
- Spine and Peripheral Nerve Disorders
- Neurotrauma
- Pediatric Neurosurgical Disorders
- Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (Deep Brain Stimulation, Spasticity, Pain)
- Radiosurgery
- In addition to clinical training, two years of the neurological surgery residency program are devoted to research, more in depth training in specific clinical areas, or the attainment of an additional postgraduate degree (e.g. MBA, MPH, MHA, etc.)

<https://www.umassmed.edu/neurosurgery/residency/>

Oguz Cataltepe, MD, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Neurological Surgery, Develops New Shunt Catheter to Improve Results of Shunt Revision Surgeries

Hydrocephalus is one of the most common neurosurgical problems and the patients frequently treated with the implantation of Ventriculo-peritoneal shunts. Although ventriculo-peritoneal shunts have been used for the treatment of hydrocephalus for many decades, the revision surgeries to keep the shunt functional are extremely common. Shunt revision surgeries are notorious with unexpected complications and difficulties. There are many reasons for shunt revision and the most common reason is the obstruction of shunt catheters.

Dr. Oguz Cataltepe has designed a new shunt catheter to improve the result of shunt revision surgeries. Dr. Cataltepe was the recipient of the University of Massachusetts Medical School Faculty Vitality Award in two consecutive years in 2015 and 2016. He used the research funded by these awards to develop a new shunt catheter and to also submit a patent application.

Dr. Cataltepe also has been preparing the 2nd Edition of his book, Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery. First edition of this book was published by Thieme in 2010 and quickly became a reference textbook in this area. The preparation of the revised and expanded 2nd edition is now completed and the book is expected to be released for sale in coming months.

First Annual 2018 Retreat - Department of Neurological Surgery

GOALS, PROGRESS, AND THE FUTURE

Neurological Surgery's First Annual Retreat was held on September 7-9, 2018 at UMMHC/UMMS and the Seacrest Beach Hotel Conference Center, Falmouth, MA

Guest Speakers and Faculty Research Update

Opening Remarks - Friday, September 7, UMMHC/UMMS

Mark Johnson, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Neurosurgery

Patient Experience, Patient Satisfaction and Standards of Respect

Allison Lemay, Associate Vice President, Patient and Family Experience, UMMHC

Standards of Respect

Jena Bauman Adams, MPH, Senior Project Director

Provider and Caregiver Engagement Results and Discussion for Improvement

Kathleen LeBlanc, Associate Vice President, Human Resources

Thoughts of a State Trooper

Commander, Detective Lieutenant John E. Mawn, Massachusetts State Police

Everything DiSC Workplace

Sally Pennell, Organizational Development Specialist, Human Resources

Strategy Overview and System Update

Eric W. Dickson, MD, MHCM, FACEP, President and CEO of UMMHC

Resident and Student Education

Mark Johnson, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Neurosurgery

Opening Remarks - Saturday, September 8, Falmouth, MA

Mark Johnson, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Neurosurgery

Vivonics Clinical Trial Update

Oguz I. Cataltepe, MD, FACS, Professor of Neurological Surgery and Pediatrics

Neuroanesthesiology Clinical and Research Interests

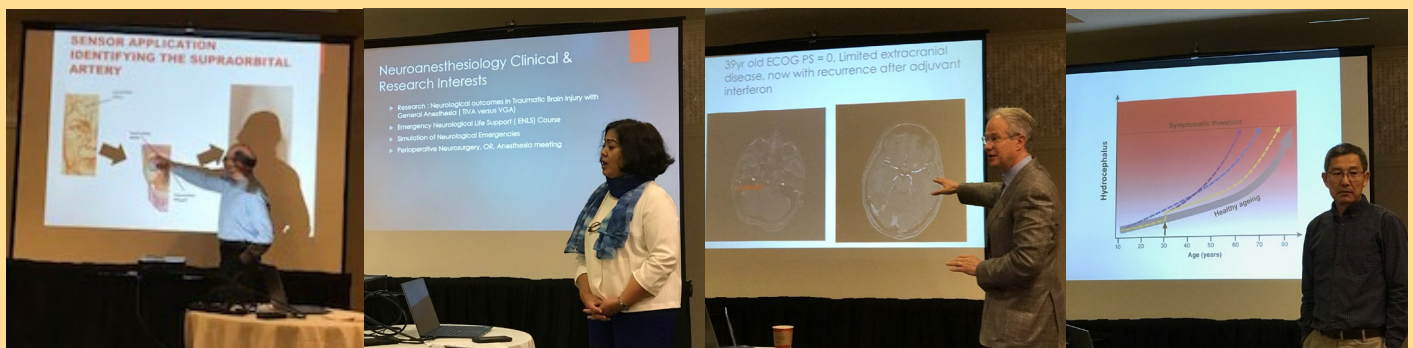
Shaheen Shaikh, MD, Director of Neuroanesthesia

Radiation Oncology Research

John Varlotta, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology

Johnson Lab Update

Hongwei Yang, PhD, Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery



Neurological Surgery Spotlight: *Norma Mills, Executive Administrative Secretary, UMMHC*



What was your job prior to UMass Memorial Health Care? I worked a Medical Assistant/ Medical Office secretary for a private practice (PCP) office.

Three words to best describe you: Determined, Loyal, Organized.

What advice would you give to a new High School Graduate? Go on to college and pick a career you know you will love. If you choose something you love, you will never work a day in your life.

I'm proudest of: Finally completing my Bachelor's in Healthcare Administration, which was done in March. Now, onto my Masters!

Words to live by? Family is who you trust, not who is blood. Surround yourself with people you trust.

I'm happiest when: I am happiest when I see my family do something that makes them happy. Working on one of our two muscle cars ('69 Firebird and '67 Charger), church camp, finishing a project that improves our home, etc. I am happiest when I am with my family, no

matter what we do. Halloween too. Halloween is life!

Favorite pastimes: Reading (when I can), binging YouTube and Netflix, spending time with friends while we binge watch Netflix or Redbox. I am a very chill person.

People would be surprised to know:

- 1) I am a HUGE Trekkie and I go to a lot of Sci-Fi/celebrity conventions; I mean... A LOT! RuPaul's Drag Con, Super-MegaFest, WalkerStalkerCon, etc.
- 2) I also used to race cars, which I no longer do (too expensive).
- 3) I have had a crush on both Elijah Wood and the Green/White Ranger (Jason David Frank) since I was 10.
- 4) I collect keychains, magnets, and shot glasses.
- 5) I cannot see a movie based on a book and then read the book, but I can read the book and then see the movie (and tear it apart because they are never right!).

Department of Neurological Surgery Faculty Research Interests



Mark D. Johnson, MD, PhD

Research Interests: Genetics of idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus (iNPH)



Sabareesh Natarajan, MD, MS

Research Interests: Device development and robotics in neurosurgery



Oguz I. Cataltepe, MD, FACS

Research Interests: Development of a new shunt catheter system



Urvashi M Upadhyay, MD

Research Interests: Physician-patient communication geared at increasing health literacy and ongoing translational research in central nervous system drug delivery with existing collaborators at MIT



Farid Hamzei-Sichani, MD, PhD

Research Interests: Role of high frequency oscillations in human epilepsy. Network mechanisms of human epilepsy



Hongwei Yang, MD, PhD

Research Interests: Genetics and molecular biology of brain tumors; genetics and biology of normal pressure hydrocephalus



Richard P. Moser, MD

Research Interests: Translational research in neuro-degenerative diseases

[Click here to see more about our faculty](#)

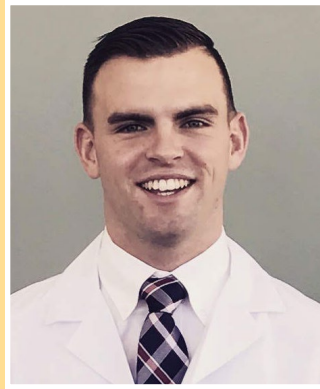
Department Updates

Our New Attending

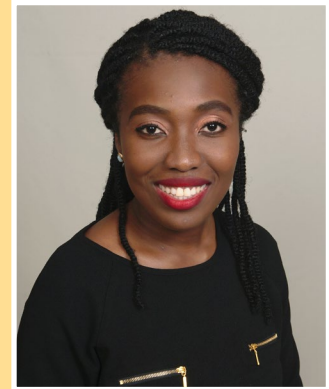


Sabareesh Natarajan, MD, MS is the new Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery specialized in Cerebrovascular, Neurovascular, Endovascular, and Skull Base Surgery. Started: October 2018

Welcome New Staff

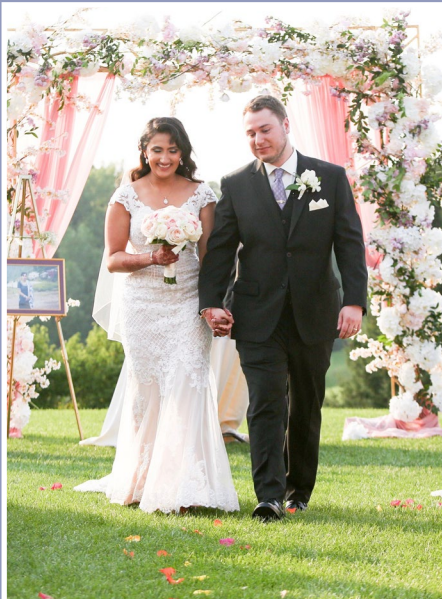


Dan Zenevich, PA, a former Neurosurgery mid-level at Baystate Medical Center. Started: 09/10/2018.



Sandra Toffay, NP, a former hospitalist mid-level at Baystate Medical Center. Started: 08/27/2018.

Congratulations!



Best Wishes

Sonali Ghandi and Nick Keeler married on August 12, 2018, in Chicago, in both a traditional American ceremony and a traditional Indian ceremony.



Precious New Arrival

Stephanie Parker, Sr. Executive Administrative Secretary, had a bouncing baby boy. Roland was born July 22, 2018, weighing in at 6 lbs 11 oz. and 21 inches long.