NEUROSCIENCES REPORT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

NEUROLOGY

- The faculty of the Department of Neurosciences interacts with medical students during each of the students' four years (Pillars 1, 2, 3).

- In Pillar 1, the faculty participates in periodic clinical correlations in neurology as well as sessions on ethics/professionalism.

- Dr. Valentina Joseph continues as Clerkship Director for Pillar 2 students and Dr. Jennifer Kruger serves as the Clerkship Coordinator in Rapid City. Dr. Andrew Ridder has assumed the Campus Coordinator position for the Avera Pillar 2 students.

- For the current year, Neurosciences is again providing mini-block experiences. Multiple faculty members participate in the mini-block sessions for Pillar 2. During these week long rotations, Pillar 2 students are exposed to the Neuroscience disciplines of Neurology, Neuroradiology, Neurosurgery and PM&R. Students have consistently rated these mini-block experiences very highly.

- As Yankton does not have a local neurologist, the Yankton students spend a mini-block week dedicated to in-patient and out-patient experiences with the neurology faculty on the Avera McKennan campus. This clinical week is coordinated by Dr. Jeffrey Boyle. For their LIC neurology rotations, the Yankton students attend clinics with neurologists on the Sanford campus.

- Various electives in neurology are currently available in Pillar 3. Fourth year medical students (Pillar 3) have the option of spending elective time on two teaching services at Sanford – a general neurology service and a stroke service. The stroke team works closely with the neuro-critical care ICU team. Also a Neuro-Critical Care elective is offered to Pillar 3 students. Additionally, Sanford, Avera and Rapid City Neurology offer general neurology electives that can be combinations of outpatient and inpatient experiences.

- In 2019, 51 students opted for electives in Neurology, Neuro Critical Care and PM&R. The Pillar 3 electives offer students frequent opportunities for collaborative interaction between medical students and residents.

- The Neurosciences Department is actively involved in resident education. Residents from Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Family Medicine and Transitional Year have clinical rotations with the Neurosciences faculty. Internal Medicine residents have a required one month rotation on Neurology and Psychiatry residents spend two months on a Neurology rotation. In Sioux Falls, the residents spend much of their neurology rotation time on the Neurology Teaching Services.

- The Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) was established in 2014 and remains available for students. Student members of SIGN, as well as all Pillar 2 students, electronically receive the Neurology Case of the Week on D2L. Students are encouraged to review the cases and answer the focused clinical questions that follow. This format
provides an opportunity for ongoing student/faculty interaction. Such weekly interaction is empathized particularly for the FARM students and Pillar 2 students in Yankton.

- The Department is committed to achieving comparable educational experiences on all campuses. In 2019, Dr. Freeman visited most FARM sites. Also Dr. Freeman spends an entire day with all of the FARM students in Sioux Falls. During this session each student presented a neurologic case that had been encountered at their site. Also, Dr. Freeman continues to offer telemedicine neurology consultations for FARM sites to promote student understanding of neurologic disease. This telemedicine format allows the student to perform observed examinations of patients with neurologic illness.

SECTION OF ETHICS AND HUMANITIES

- The Neuroscience Department’s Section of Ethics and Humanities has a diverse and active faculty committed to developing a strong curriculum for Pillars 1, 2 and 3. Dr. LuAnn Eidsness continues to serve as the Chair of the Section. Gretchen Spars, MA, MDiv and Ann Cook, PhD serve as coordinators for the Bioethics program and teach the online courses.

- Four sessions focusing on ethics/professionalism are conducted for Pillar 1 students during their first eight months.

- The Section provides an online course, Clinical Ethics, for all Pillar 2 students throughout the state (the three major campuses and the FARM sites). The students are divided into 4 cohorts, each with an assigned faculty mentor. This curriculum promotes discussions centered around all major clinical disciplines. In addition to the online teaching component of the Clinical Ethics course, the students attend two Friday Academy sessions - one at the beginning of the Clinical Ethics course and the other as the online course is nearing completion.

- The department offers three core online electives for Pillar 3 students – Advanced Studies in Bioethics; Ethical Foundations for Clinical Research; and Ethics, Professionalism and Leadership. These courses serve as the foundation for the Bioethics Certificate (12 elective hours) that is offered by the Section of Ethics and Humanities. There are 17 students in the graduating class of 2020 projected to obtain the Bioethics Certificate. Courses applicable to this 12 credit requirement include the Healer’s Art (coordinated by the department of Family Medicine) and the one credit online Clinical Ethics course that all Pillar 2 students take.

- Course enrollment for the online bioethics electives has steadily increased:
  - Advanced Studies in Bioethics (NEUR 850 - March 2019) – 20 students enrolled
  - Ethics, Professionalism and Leadership (NEUR 851 - April 2019) – 27 students enrolled
  - Ethical Foundations for Clinical Research (NEUR 852 - October 2019) – 31 students enrolled
  - Advanced Studies in Bioethics (NEUR 850 - February 2020) – 21 students enrolled
  - Ethics, Professionalism and Leadership (NEUR 851 - March 2020) – 25 students enrolled
Various other Pillar 3 electives in bioethics are offered. *Ethical Issues in Medicine* offers the student’s time to expand knowledge of bioethics in clinical settings and by reading/discussing issues with interdisciplinary Section faculty. This course is currently being refined and expanded to provide more structure for the students. *Spirituality & Medicine* explores the role spirituality and religion play in a patient’s healing and how a physician’s own beliefs may influence the approach to illness, healing and personal life. The course has been facilitated by Dr. Michael Elliott (Chief Medical Officer, Avera McKennan Hospital). *Humanities & Medicine* is a course that utilizes short stories, poetry, essays, video and music to explore aspects of illness and caregiving. Students attend the course in person, by teleconferencing (Rapid City) and Skype. The core faculty for this course are Jerome Freeman, MD, Ellen Schellinger, MA and Peter Hoesing, PhD.

Members of the Section continue to work closely with the DeGroot Center at Sanford USD Medical Center. The Center is dedicated to bioethics education, humanities and the healing arts. The mission of the Center parallels and complements the work being done by the Section. The principle goal of the Center is education. The faculty of the Center are also active faculty members with the Section of Ethics and Humanities. Ellen Schellinger has received extensive training in Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) through the University of Massachusetts Center for Mindfulness. She teaches a formal MBSR course and also participates in periodic lectures for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 students.

**SSOM Kindness Project**

The Kindness Project has been recognized and embraced by students, faculty and staff throughout the state. An ongoing effort is being made to actively promote discussions of kindness between faculty and students. An ongoing qualitative study of student perceptions of kindness is being conducted by Jamie Messerli and other faculty in the Section of Ethics and Humanities. The healthcare systems (including Avera, Monument and Sanford) have expressed interest in the Kindness Project.

**LifeCircle South Dakota**

LifeCircleSD began in 1999 as “Partnership for Improving End of Life Care in SD” after a SSOM Board of Visitors session focusing on end-of-life care. Then Dean of the medical school, Dr. Robert Talley, supported this effort and it has been based in the medical school since its inception. It is a statewide organization with three work groups: academic work group for inter-professional education, community education and public policy. Please visit our web page for more information: [http://www.usd.edu/medicine/lifecircle](http://www.usd.edu/medicine/lifecircle).

The Academic Work group consists of interdisciplinary faculty representing medicine, nursing, chaplaincy, social work and pharmacy. This group is responsible for the Interdisciplinary Palliative Care (IPC) seminar (started in 1999) with the goal to improve care at the end-of-life. This Seminar occurs in three ½ day sessions that begin with home visits in inter-professional dyads, followed by large group didactic education, and then small group discussion. Didactic content also occurs on an online platform through Desire2Learn. In addition, the Seminar is to promote mutual recognition and value the inter-professional roles. Currently, students in medicine, nursing,
pharmacy, social work and chaplaincy/ministry are participating in the seminar. This seminar is required for medical students to learn how to care for patients and their families at the end of life. The Seminar occurs in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Yankton; the FARM students participate in their FARM community.

The Public Policy Work Group focuses on legislative activities. Its most recent focus was on POLST. To accomplish this, the LifeCircleSD Advisory Group was broadened to include state agencies, professional organizations, religious groups, and interested health care professionals. The process included two years of education regarding POLST and discussion with culmination of a bill introduced in the 2019 legislature, which passed, and SD MOST became law on July 1, 2019.

Education occurs state-wide through the Quarter Conference Calls. Any topic pertinent to end of life care is presented through audio conferencing state wide.

**NEUROSCIENCES FACULTY**

**Sanford Health**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Abdul Alchaki, MD</td>
<td>John Hansen, MD, MPH</td>
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<td>Nessim Amin, MD</td>
<td>Emily Hutchinson, CMP</td>
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<td>Susan Assam, MD</td>
<td>Christopher Janssen, MD</td>
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<td>Cindy Baldwin, RN, MS, CNP</td>
<td>Fanny Jaquez, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Boetel, DO</td>
<td>Peter Johnson, MD</td>
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<td>Molly Clark, PharmD, MHA</td>
<td>Valentina Joseph, MD</td>
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<td>Erica DeBoer, MA, RN</td>
<td>Jae Kim, MD</td>
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<td>Lisa Docken, RN</td>
<td>Eugenio Matos, MD</td>
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<td>Efrat Feldman, MD</td>
<td>Divyajot Sandhu, MD</td>
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<td>Kathryn Florio, DO</td>
<td>Nnamdi Uhegwu, MD</td>
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<td>Jerome Freeman, MD</td>
<td>Michelle Van Demark, RN, MSN</td>
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<td>Joanne Gunderson, MSN</td>
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**Cross Appointments to Neurology**

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<tr>
<td>J. Jeffery Baka, MD</td>
<td>Thomas Free, DO (Radiology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Brechtelsbauer</td>
<td>Troy Gust, MD (Neurosurgery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Berg, MD (Radiology)</td>
<td>Julie Johnson, MD (Pediatrics)</td>
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<td>Larry Burris, DO (Internal Medicine)</td>
<td>Dave Kapaska, DO (Family Medicine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Czarnecki, MD</td>
<td>Bryan Wellman, MD (Neurosurgery)</td>
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**Regional Medical Clinic & Rehabilitation – Rapid City**

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<tr>
<td>Robert Finley, MD</td>
<td>Matthew Simmons, MD</td>
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<td>Steven Hata, MD</td>
<td>Joshua Sole, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Kruger, MD</td>
<td>Brian Tschida, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Mills, MD</td>
<td>David Tullar, PA-C</td>
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**Rapid City Regional Hospital**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Holso, BSN</td>
<td>Gretchen Landers, CNP</td>
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**The Rehab Doctors – Rapid City**

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<tr>
<td>Trevor Anderson, MD</td>
<td>Brett Lawlor, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Dietrich, MD</td>
<td>Peter Vonderau, MD</td>
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Avera Medical Group Neurology
Jeffrey Boyle, MD
Carol B. Nelson, MD
Justin Persson, MD
Andrew Ridder, MD
William Rossing, MD
Lisa Viola, DO
Todd Zimprich, MD

Avera Medical Group Rehabilitation & Physical Medicine
Thomas Ripperda, MD
Jose Santos, MD

Yankton Medical Clinic
Judith Peterson, MD

Veteran’s Administration
Xuesheng Feng, MD, PhD (Sioux Falls, SD)
Laurie Weisensee, MD (Fort Meade, SD)

Other
Mei He, MD
Misty Jensen, PharmD
Kathleen Kovarik, PhD
Robert MacLachlan, MD
Shane Schellpfeffer, EdD
Susan Schrader, PhD
Adil Shaikh, MD

Faculty with Appointments/Cross Appointments to Section of Ethics and Humanities
Sheila Agee, MFA
Cameo Anders, JD (Anders Law Office)
Matthew Barker, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology)
Jordan Baye, PharmD, MA (Sanford Health)
Mark Beard, MD (Family Medicine)
Lora Black, RN, MS (Sanford Health)
Ann Cook, PhD (University of Montana)
LuAnn Eidsness, MD (Internal Medicine)
Michael Gibbs, MHA (Avera Health)
Catherine Hajek, MD (Internal Medicine)
Daniel Heinemann, MD (Family Medicine)
Peter Hoesing, PhD (Dakota State University)
Wendell Hoffman, MD (Internal Medicine)
Kenneth Kirton, MD (Family Medicine)
Jamie Messerli, MS (Sanford Research)
Beth Mikkelsen, MD (Internal Medicine)
Ann Pederson, ThD (Augustana University)
Shelley Nielson, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology)
Ellen Schellinger, MA (Sanford Health)
Matthew Simmons, MD (Neurology)
Gretchen Spars, MDiv, MA (Sanford Health)

NEUROSCIENCES CASE CONFERENCE 2019–2020

This clinical and teaching session is held each Monday from 12:00-1:00 PM at Sanford USD Medical Center.

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

- In 2020, the Section of Ethics and Humanities has nominated three students for bioethics scholarships: Jordyn Kreutzfeldt and Ethan Pauley (Freeman Scholarship for Excellence in Bioethics); Elliot Blue (Excellence in Neurosciences Award)
- The department provides funding, as requested, to allay expenses for medical students to attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology.
**Publications 2019**

Articles:


Books/Book Chapters: