

Career Opportunities in Emerging Neurologic Subspecialties

Neurologic Subspecialization Emerges

In the beginning...

- Advances in neuroscience occurred at an explosive rate, giving birth to innovative technologies and treatments promising dramatic improvements in neurologic care
- Over 80%* of neurology residents were proceeding to subspecialty fellowships following graduation from their residency
- New subspecialties were emerging without comprehensive standards for training and practice
- Many new subspecialties did not qualify to be recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology (ABPN), or Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

REFERENCES

*American Academy of Neurology, AAN Resident Survey: Final Report January 23, 2008, St. Paul: AAN; 2008.

Neurologic Subspecialization Emerges

2001

- American Academy of Neurology (AAN) developed the Commission on Subspecialty Certification comprised of five leading neurology organizations with a common interest of supporting and nurturing neurologic subspecialties
 - American Academy of Neurology
 - American Neurological Association
 - Association of University Professors of Neurology
 - Child Neurology Society
 - Professors & Educators of Child Neurology

2002

- These five founding “parent” organizations established the structure, function, and budget for a certifying and accrediting body for emerging subspecialties

UCNS Emerges

2003

- United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS) was incorporated as an independent 501(c)6 nonprofit organization

UCNS Vision:

To help small neurologic subspecialties develop credibility and grow.

UCNS Mission:

To promote high quality patient-centered care through accreditation of training programs and certification of physicians in neurologic subspecialties.

UCNS Emerges

Founding “parent” organizations provide continued leadership and expertise to the UCNS Board and Councils

- Board of Directors govern the organization
 - Voting Members
 - 5 “parent” organization nominees + 4 UCNS subspecialty nominees
 - Nonvoting Members
 - Nominees from remaining 6 UCNS subspecialties
 - Ex-officio Members
 - ABPN and ACGME liaisons + Executive Directors of “parent” organizations
- Councils oversee accreditation/certification and report to Board
 - Members nominated by the five “parent” organizations

UCNS Emerges

Three functions of UCNS

UCNS provides functions of ACGME and ABPN for small emerging neurologic subspecialties

- 1) Provide accreditation and peer-reviewed oversight of UCNS-recognized subspecialty training programs
- 2) Coordinate development and administration of high-stakes certification examinations for UCNS-recognized subspecialties
- 3) Administer a life-long learning and self-assessment continuous certification (C-cert) process for certified diplomates

Subspecialties Seeking UCNS Accreditation/Certification

- Subspecialties can apply to the UCNS for recognition of their field of medicine as a discrete and credible area of practice in neurology.
- Subspecialty must be supported and proposed for recognition by one or more sponsoring organization(s).
- Specific criteria must be met that supports the subspecialty application
- Physician experts develop and propose the core competencies required of physicians in the specialty and the required educational standards for training programs as part of the application process
- Applications go through a rigorous review by UCNS Councils and Board
- If approved, the proposed accreditation and certification requirements go through an 8–12-month finalization process

UCNS Accreditation

a measure of excellence

Accreditation demonstrates that a training program meets the high standards and rigorous peer-review process for a specific neurologic subspecialty.

UCNS Accredited Fellowship Programs

- Over 200 UCNS-accredited fellowship training programs in the U.S. and Canada
- Accreditation Council oversees the accreditation process and standards
- Subspecialty experts establish the program requirements including education standards
- Standards and processes are closely aligned with ACGME

UCNS Certification

a measure of expertise

Certification demonstrates the knowledge needed to provide quality patient care in a specific subspecialty area of medicine.

UCNS Certification

- Over 3,000 UCNS-certified Diplomates
- Certification Council oversees the certification process, policies, and examination standards
- Examination committees appointed by each subspecialty write the exam questions (200 questions/initial certification exam; 25 questions/annual continuous certification quizzes)
- Certification is continuous when annual requirements are met
- Standards and processes are closely aligned with ABPN

Current UCNS-Recognized Subspecialties

**Autonomic
Disorders**

**Behavioral
Neurology &
Neuropsychiatry**

**Clinical
Neuromuscular
Pathology**

**Geriatric
Neurology**
(accreditation-only)

**Headache
Medicine**

**Interventional
Neurology**

**Neonatal
Neurocritical
Care**

**Neurocritical
Care**

Neuroimaging

Neuro-oncology

Planning Your Career Path

Considering a career or expanded training in a UCNS-recognized subspecialty?

Choose a UCNS-accredited fellowship training program

- UCNS-accredited programs assure consistent educational content that is developed and overseen with a peer-reviewed process.
- Graduation from a UCNS-accredited training program is required to be eligible for certification in a UCNS subspecialty after a practice track period closes.
- Find UCNS-accredited training programs at www.ucns.org.

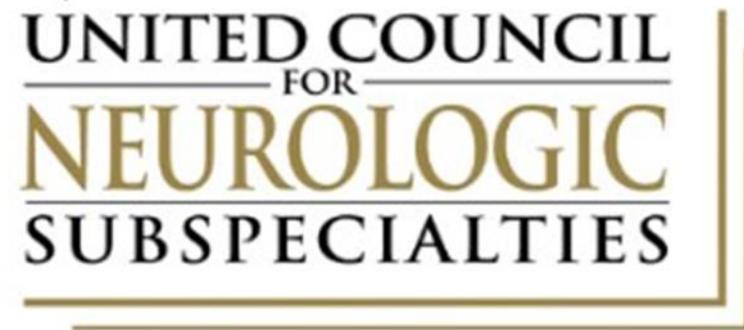
Seek subspecialty certification

- Validate your subspecialty expertise through certification
- Certification is required within 4 years of fellowship graduation
- Eligibility requirements vary by subspecialty and are listed at www.ucns.org.

Planning Your Career Path

The Value of Subspecialty Certification

- Proven knowledge and skill in the subspecialty
- Sets yourself apart from others in the job search
- Acknowledged as an expert in the field by patients and peers
- Added qualifications and expertise for future career opportunities and advancements
- Demonstrated commitment to the field and subspecialty life-long learning



For more information go to:

www.ucns.org