Greetings and Salutations to all the University of Colorado Neurology Alumni! My name is Augusto Miravalle and I am the Vice Chair for Medical Education as well as the Neurology Residency Program Director for the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. As Vice Chair, I oversee all the education programs for our department including all fellowships and the medical student clerkship. Matthew West, Associate Program Director and Residency and Fellowship alumnus, and I co-direct the Neurology Residency Program. As the number of our graduates grows with each year, we recognize the need for better communication and a way to stay in touch. Hence, you are receiving the inaugural Neuro Alumni Newsletter!

This biannual letter will include tidbits on the progression of the Neurology Department as well as updates on the Neurology Residency Program and associated Fellowships as well as current information on various alumni. We also have a Facebook page under CU Neurology Residency Program that is updated with pictures and current events for the program. Join us on LinkedIn as well! If you are local and interested in participating in our CME events you can go to our webpage on the UCSOM website (the link is listed on the back page of the newsletter).

June and July always bring a combination of mixed feelings. On one hand, we are excited to welcome our new class of Interns. We are pleased again this year to have a wonderful group of talented young physicians who joined us in July. On the other hand, we experienced the bittersweet event of seeing our graduating class move on with their careers. We are fortunate to have Alex Mohler, MD and Andreas Michas-Martin, MD in our fellowship programs; Alex began a two year Neuro-Oncology fellowship, and Andreas joined the Movement Disorders group for a one year clinical fellowship. Mario Cerdan-Trevino, MD started a vascular neurology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University; Taka Higashimori, MD is doing an interventional vascular neurology fellowship at the University of Minnesota; while Wayne Moldovan, MD joined his father in a neurology practice group in Houston, Texas. (continued on page 2)

Spotlight on Alumni: Dr. Kathryn Ann Polovitz

Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Polovitz finished her neurology residency in 2011, and her epilepsy fellowship in 2012 both at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. When Dr. Polovitz graduated from the Neurology Residency Program she received the Resident Extra Mile Award for outstanding leadership within residency. She then joined fellow Neurology alums Drs. Ravi Shah (2005) and Jeff Tam Sing (neuromuscular fellowship, 2008) at Neurology of the Rockies in Parker, CO. She became a partner in the practice in August, 2014. She is the director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at Littleton Adventist Hospital, and also provides inpatient neurology care at both Parker and Castle Rock Adventist Hospitals. In July, 2014, she became the President of the (continued on page 2)
New Fellowships in Neurology

We have two new UCNS certified fellowships that will begin this academic year in Neuro-Oncology with Denise Damek, MD, as the Director, and in Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology with Teerin Liewluck, MD, as the Director. The SOM Graduate Medical Education Committee recently approved a new fellowship in Neuro-Infectious Disease. This fellowship, which is a joint endeavor between our department and the Division of Infectious Disease, will start in July, 2015 with David Beckham, MD as the director. These fellowships join existing Neurology fellowships at the University of Colorado:

- Behavioral Neurology, Al Anderson, MD, Director, UCNS
- Epilepsy, Lauren Frey, MD, Director. ACGME (2015)
- Movement Disorders, Maureen Leehey, MD Director
- MS & Neuroimmunology, John Corboy, MD, Director
- Neuromuscular, Dianna Quan, MD, Director, ACGME
- Vascular Neurology, William Jones, MD, Director, ACGME
- Stroke Research through the ASA/AHA/Bugher Foundation Grant, Sharon Poisson, MD, Director
- Neurovirology-Molecular Biology Research, NIH T32 training grant, Don Gilden, MD, PI
- Pediatric Epilepsy (Children’s Hospital Colorado), Susan Koh, MD, Director ACGME (2015)

Please join us in congratulating our 2014 graduating Fellows:

- Sailaja Enduri, MD, Neurologist at Minneapolis Clinics of Neurology, MN;
- Kimberly Horiuchi, MD, Neurologist at Blue Sky Neurology, CO;
- Jonathan Lopez, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Epileptologist, Division of Pediatric Neurology at Seattle Children’s Hospital and the University of Washington;
- Angel Pulido, MD, Neurohospitalist at St. David’s Medical Center, Austin, TX;
- Jeremy Toler, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital Colorado.

The Edge on Education cont.

This next academic year will bring a series of exciting and innovative curricular developments. Lauren Frey, MD, Jennifer Simpson, MD, Matt West, MD and I have established a leadership curriculum for the residency program. Residents will have the chance to learn by dynamic participation in a series of activities intended to cover aspects of research, hospital administration and education. In addition, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Maggie-George Foundation have provided grant support for our sociocultural curriculum. Among the activities provided by this curriculum, residents and fellows will have the opportunity to attend medical Spanish courses, participate in outreach clinical and educational activities, and eventually take advantage of our international Neurology opportunities.

Spotlight on Alumni cont.

Colorado Society of Clinical Neurologists and is currently collaborating with the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado to provide CME at various CSCN events. Dr. Polovitz also provides epilepsy and EEG educational sessions to providers and nurses in the Denver area. When not working, she is almost always in the high country hiking, biking or (likely) skiing with her husband, Andy (UCSOM MPH grad, 2014). She’s extremely proud to be a UCSOM alum!
By the end of 2008, all of the academic and research operations of the University of Colorado at Denver health sciences schools and colleges had been relocated from their older campus in Denver to the new Anschutz Medical Campus, joining the University of Colorado Hospital and Children’s Hospital Colorado.


Samuel DeStefano, MD
Asher Jones, MD
Erica Obaro, MD
Pediatric Neurology
Justin Persson, MD

Katie Rosell, MD
Sasan Salimian, MD
Garnett Smith, MD
Pediatric Neurology
Melissa Wright, MD
Pediatric Neurology

Scott Demarest, MD
Pediatric Epilepsy
Samantha Holden, MD
Movement Disorders
Andreas Michas-Martin, MD
Movement Disorders
Alex Mohler, MD
Neuro-Oncology

Dominika Lozowska, MD
Neuromuscular Medicine
Julie Seibert, MD
Multiple Sclerosis
Alejandra Stewart, MD
Pediatric Epilepsy

Welcome New Residents and Fellows!
Closing Words from the Chair by Kenneth Tyler, MD

We have reached the end of the 2013-14 academic and fiscal years and have celebrated the graduation of an outstanding group of residents. An important recent achievement was the granting of “Center” status within the SOM to our Alzheimer Disease Research and Clinical Center. The follow-up to this has been the application to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) for funding of an Alzheimer Disease Research Center. The grant, with Hunt Potter, PhD, as the PI, topped out at nearly 600 pages and was submitted May 14th. A remarkable feature was the significant commitments by the School of Medicine and University of Colorado Hospital to provide $3 million of support for this Center. Perhaps even more remarkable was the tremendous degree of bipartisan support this endeavor received in the Colorado State Legislature -- leading to a bill earmarking $250,000 for this endeavor in the current session, and a promise by the Governor to request additional funding of $500,000/year for each of the next five years. This was really a tremendous effort that bodes well for the future.

We have added three new Vice Chairs to join Steve Ringel, MD. Augusto Miravalle, MD, has become Vice Chair (Education), Hunt Potter, PhD, Vice Chair (Basic Research) and Tim Vollmer, MD, Vice Chair (Clinical Research). In the Education Group, Brian Berman, MD and Pearce Korb, MD will take over as Co-Directors of the medical student education component (replacing Chantal O’Brien, MD, who gets a well-deserved break after many years of directing this responsibility solo).

New faculty recruitment has continued with Kiran Vidwan, DO joining us from the faculty of the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor in our Headache/Pain group led by Marius Birlea, MD within General Neurology. Mesha-Gay Brown, MD has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Epilepsy Section after completing her neurology residency and fellowships in Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy at the University of Pennsylvania. Joining the faculty at Denver Health Medical Center is Ashish Vyas, MD who completed his neurology residency at NYU and then an epilepsy fellowship at the University of South Alabama. Lauren Seeberger, MD will join our Movement Disorders Section in the fall as an Associate Professor. Dr. Seeberger was Director of the Movement Disorders Center/National Parkinson’s Foundation Center of Excellence at the Colorado Neurological Institute, and will be returning to Colorado after a seven year absence. The Movement Disorders Section will also be joined by the return of one of our outstanding past residents, Drew Kern, MD in August, 2015 after he completes his Movement Disorders fellowship at the University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital with Dr. Anthony Lang.

On the research front, and despite the persistence of a challenging and uncertain financial environment, the department has continued to expand significantly. We currently rank #27 nationally in NIH funding among U.S. Neurology Departments with just over $5 million in NIH grants. The SOM’s Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC) data for FY14 lists our awards to date at $12.6 million (direct and F&A), a 152% increase over FY13. We remain in fourth position among SOM Departments, with our research portfolio exceeded only by the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry. Neurology’s research awards remain larger than any of the basic science departments (Pharmacology is the largest at $11.1 million for FY14). A complete list of active clinical trials by division can be found on the Department’s website and is regularly updated.