Neuroimmunology Fellowship

Goals of Fellowship Training in Clinical MS Care
The overall goals of the fellowship are:

(1) To develop a comprehensive knowledge base encompassing basic science and clinical aspects of MS,
(2) To become familiar with principles of comprehensive management of persons with MS,
(3) To be a resource for information about current research directions and clinical trials in MS, including education of patients, colleagues and other trainees at multiple levels in various disciplines, and
(4) To become familiar with and participate in clinical research, including clinical trials.

At the end of the fellowship year, the fellow should be able to recognize common and unusual presentations and manifestations of MS, to generate a differential diagnosis of conditions that may have similar clinical presentations to MS, to describe the basic immunopathophysiology of MS, to discuss sensitivities, specificities and indications for paraclinical tests that are used to help establish (or rule out) a diagnosis of MS, to directly and personally review and interpret results of paraclinical tests, especially MRI scans and CSF examinations, to manage primary, secondary and tertiary symptoms of MS, and treat acute attacks, including management of baclofen pumps, to prescribe treatment of MS with disease modifying agents, including use of immunosuppressive medications and management of their complications, to lead the health care team in the rehabilitative approach to caring for persons with MS, to serve as an expert consultant for questions of complicated management issues in persons with MS, including giving coherent didactic and other presentations to a variety of health care professionals, to design innovative treatment approaches utilizing neurologic and rehabilitative strategies, to be able to interpret and understand basic and clinical research approaches in MS, to understand and be able to perform outcome measures in clinical MS studies, to provide a critical review of current literature regarding research and clinical trials in MS, and to implement clinical research in an MS or MS-related area.

Training Curriculum in Multiple Sclerosis
Over the one-year course of the fellowship, the fellow will participate in training at multiple locations and different venues. Training will occur in the outpatient offices of the University of Colorado Hospital, the Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion (AOP) in Aurora, CO, and the Neurology Clinic at the Denver Health Medical Center (DHMC). At the AOP, the fellow will attend separate clinics with recognized experts in MS, neuro-urology, neuro-ophthalmology, neuro-otology, and rehabilitation medicine, and may attend behavioral neurology clinics if they feel it appropriate for their interests. The fellow will participate in various clinical research opportunities at the AOP. At DHMC, there are two morning clinics per month dedicated to MS patients. It is expected that the fellow will spend ~50% time seeing patients and 50% time performing clinical research or studying various aspects of MS. The fellow will interact with the physicians, nurse practitioners and support staff at both locations, including fellowship-trained experts in the subspecialty areas. The fellow will attend the American Academy of Neurology and at least one MS-specific national or international conference. The fellow may attend and give a presentation of clinical research results at one or more meetings. There will be no traditional on-call duties for inpatient care, but the fellow will share in call for baclofen pump patients.
**Prerequisites**
Fellowship candidates should have completed medical school in an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution, and be board eligible or board certified in neurology or other appropriate specialty. In rare circumstances, a candidate may have completed medical school in an accredited US or Canadian institution, and be considered a “pre-residency” fellow.

**Methods of Evaluation**
Fellows will be reviewed by all the physicians and practitioners who help train them on a monthly basis. Fellows should be able to sit for an examination which will assess their knowledge of basic science principles and clinical care of MS, such as that sponsored by the Consortium of MS Centers. Practitioners should be eligible to take a shorter more clinically based examination for which they may receive CME credit.