

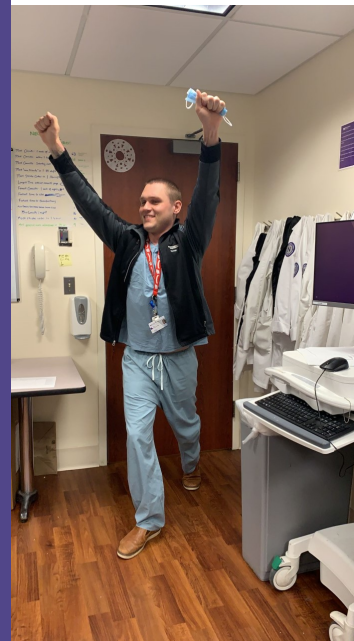


Northwestern Neurology Newsletter

EDITOR: Rebecca DiBiase



Residents enjoying
our traditional
Friday Wellness
Breakfast!!



Career/Academic Congrats

Congrats to Nikhil Dhuna, Jo Tang, Alex Moise, & Jordan Standlee for completing their PGY4 research presentations!



Antidepressants and their Impact on Sleep



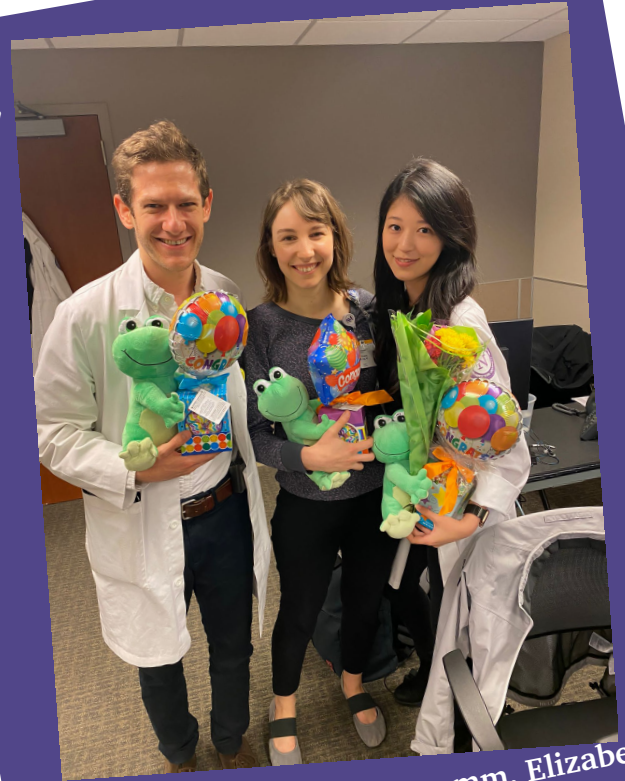
CT Appearance of Intracranial Hematomas and Biomarkers of Hemostasis



Pregnancy and Anti-Epileptic Drug Levels



Review of REM Parasomnias



Congratulations to Brian Stamm, Elizabeth Sugg, & Jessica Lee, who all matched to the NMH Stroke fellowship program!!



Congratulations to Jakita Baldwin (PGY4) for her leadership in building and successfully completing the first free neurology clinic at community health! Amazing work Jakita!



Departmental Publications

Spinocerebellar ataxia clinical trials: opportunities and challenges

Sarah M. Brooker¹, Chandrakanth Reddy Edamakanti¹, Sara M. Akasha¹, Sheng-Han Kuo^{2,3} & Puneet Opal¹

¹Department of Neurology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

²Department of Neurology, Columbia University, New York, New York

³Initiative for Columbia Ataxia and Tremor, Columbia University, New York, New York

Correspondence

Puneet Opal, Department of Neurology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 303 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: 312-503-0872; Fax: 312-503-0872; E-mail: p-opal@northwestern.edu

Received: 19 January 2021; Revised: 2 April 2021; Accepted: 5 April 2021

Abstract

The spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) are a group of dominantly inherited diseases that share the defining feature of progressive cerebellar ataxia. The disease process, however, is not confined to the cerebellum; other areas of the brain, in particular, the brainstem, are also affected, resulting in a high burden of morbidity and mortality. Currently, there are no disease-modifying treatments for the SCAs, but preclinical research has led to the development of therapeutic agents ripe for testing in patients. Unfortunately, due to the rarity of these diseases and their slow and variable progression, there are substantial hurdles to overcome in conducting clinical trials. While the epidemiological features of the

Kudos to Brian Stamm (PGY3), Maggie Yu (Stroke fellow), Jennifer Adrissi (Movement Disorders Fellow), Sarah Brooker (PGY3), Nick Hac (Dizzy Fellow), Shuby Priyadarshini (PGY3), & Karan Dixit (Neuro-oncology) for their publication "Clinical Problem-Solving: Lower Extremity Weakness & Paresthesia in an Immunocompromised Patient with a Complex Cancer History" in *The Neurohospitalist*

Clinical Problem-Solving: Lower Extremity Weakness & Paresthesia in an Immunocompromised Patient With a Complex Cancer History

Brian Stamm, MD, Margaret Yu, MD, Jennifer Adrissi, MD, more...

Show all authors

First Published May 18, 2021 | Research Article | Check for updates

<https://doi.org/10.1177/19418744211017396>

Article information

Abstract

We present a case of new onset bilateral lower extremity weakness, paresthesia, urinary retention and bowel incontinence in a 51-year-old man. He had a complicated history of acute myelogenous leukemia with known central nervous system (CNS) and leptomeningeal involvement status post allogeneic stem cell transplant complicated by chronic graft versus host disease (GVHD). We review the differential diagnosis as the physical exam and diagnostic results evolved. We also provide a review of the relevant literature supporting our favored diagnosis, as well as other competing diagnoses in this complicated case. The ultimate differential diagnosis included viral myelitis, treatment-related myelopathies, and CNS GVHD. The case provides a sobering reminder that even with an appropriate diagnostic workup, some cases remain refractory to therapeutic efforts. It also underscores the importance of a sensitive neurologic exam, given the significant clinico-radiological delay, and reviews the complex differential diagnosis for myelopathy.

Kudos to Sarah Brooker (PGY3) & Dr. Opal (Movement Disorders) for their publication "Spinocerebellar ataxia clinical trials: opportunities and challenges" in *Annals of Clinical & Translational Neurology*

Resident Birthdays in May



Dan Tong Jia (PGY2)



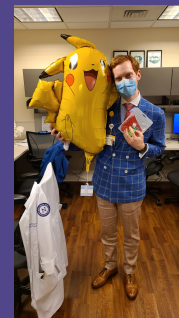
Jordan Standlee (PGY4)



Sarah Brooker (PGY3)



Shuby Priyadarshini (PGY3)



Glenn Harris (PGY2)

Kudos!

To Leonard Sokol (PGY3): "I am not sure how to convey how thankful I am to you. Your computer science background and cheeriness was always comforting when things were uncertain in the hospital. I remember always hoping that you would be among the residents that would check on me. I'm not sure how you measure success in your life, but if it's the amount of people you've impacted, you can add my name to that list :). On top of that, you inspired me to be involved in patient care and technology somehow ... Thank you for everything." - *Anonymous Patient*

Kudos to **Glenn Harris (PGY2)** for staying late on a clinic day to help the busy Consult service with a difficult LP – *Jo Tang & Rebecca DiBiase*

Kudos to **Rebecca DiBiase (PGY2)** and **Isaac Bourgeois (Neurocritical care fellow; acting Stroke fellow that week)** who treated an acute ischemic stroke patient with initial NIHSS 10 with IV TPA with door-to-needle time 30 minutes (our high institutional goal)... the patient also had CEA of a symptomatic ICA that admission and discharged home with an excellent outcome. Amazing work! – *Dr. Caprio*

Kudos to **Gerry Elliott (NSICU Pharmacist)** for going out of his way to help with AED dosing for a patient on the Neuro floor, when I know the ICU list was already super busy! - *Rebecca DiBiase*

I found that **Dr. Glenn Harris (PGY2)** is concerned about my health and gave me some instruction on how I could help myself get better. I had dizziness from Oct. 2020 to April 2021 and he was the only one that gave me the proper medication to stop the dizziness. - *Anonymous patient*

"I'd like to recognize **Jillian (NSICU RN)** for her professionalism and attention to detail in caring for a patient we shared in the NSICU. Thank you so much for everything you do!" – *Eric Moffet*

"We would like to thank **Alyssa Molina (General Neurology Charge Nurse)** for putting in an amazing effort in finding cross-country placement and transportation for a patient so he could be with his family. She did a tremendous amount of leg work and additionally stayed late and made last-minute rescue moves to ensure the plan worked". - *Sarah Brooker & Rebecca DiBiase*

I would highly recommend **Dr. Elizabeth Sugg (PGY3)**. I felt confident in her expertise and she has great bedside manner - caring and personable. She took the time to understand my situation, explain her recommendations thoroughly, and answer all my questions. I couldn't be happier with my experience at my appointment today. - *Anonymous patient*

Many thanks to **Sarah Brooker, Deborah Huang, Jessica Lee, Shubadra Priyadarshini, Brian Stamm, Elizabeth Sugg, and Matthew Techy (PGY3's)** for throwing an awesome and once-in-a-lifetime memorable party at Villa De Sugg! – *Leonard Sokol*

The **Stroke team** has fostered such a welcoming and supportive environment for us medical students. As a team, we constantly search for ways to help each other learn about and serve our patients....Furthermore, it's easy to see how excited they are about their work, and they have instilled the same excitement in us. I came into the clerkship interested in Neurology as a topic but not as a future career choice, but after one week, I already feel like it's something I will strongly consider pursuing. I couldn't be more thankful for my team. - *Anonymous student*

Awards & Accolades



Congratulations to **Toni Cao (PGY2)** for winning the Physician Excellence in Collaboration Award from the Feinberg 10 Nursing Staff! Wonderful work Toni!

Congratulations to **Dr. Ayush Batra (neurocritical care)** for winning the "Best NSICU Teacher" award from the ED!



Congratulations to **Rebecca DiBiase (PGY2)** for receiving the "Best Consulting Resident" award from the ED!

Congratulations to **Courtney Dowling (NSICU charge nurse)** on winning the system-wide annual Excellence in Nursing Practice award! We are so proud of you!



Congratulations to the NSICU APP team (**Patrick Rosson, Renee Hansen, Justine Kuryliw, Kyle Woodworth, Marta Zelena, & Lauren Rybka**) for winning the "PGY2 Class Appreciation Award" from the ED! Thank you for all your hard work!

Congratulations to the Neurology department for winning the "Best Consulting Service" award from the ED for the 4th year in a row!!

Personal Congrats

Congratulations to Alex Moise (PGY4) & Peter Glynn on their wedding!!



Leonard Sokol's (PGY3) bachelor party with his co-residents. Congrats on your upcoming wedding Leonard!!

