



TOWER HEALTH

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.

NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 701 Penn Street, Reading, PA
Friday, September 19, 2025 — 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Save the date

Registration Required



Register now by clicking the button or go to Towerhealth.eeds.com and click on Live Events. Or scan the QR code to register.

Free for Tower Health employees, affiliated medical staff, and students.

Non Tower Health Employed/
Affiliated Physician or Advanced
Practice Provider: \$85.00

Non Tower Health Employed
Nurse or other Healthcare
Professional: \$57.50



ACCREDITATION STATEMENT: Tower Health is accredited by the Pennsylvania Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

CREDIT DESIGNATION: Tower Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

NURSING CONTACT HOURS: This program awards 5.5 contact hours. Tower Health is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

CLAIMING CREDITS: Credits will not be given unless attendee completes all requirements which include signing in with the activity code using eeds within 24 hours of the start of the conference and completing the online evaluation within 30 days of the activity at <http://towerhealth.eeds.com>.

7 a.m. **Breakfast and Exhibitors**
 7:30 a.m. **Welcome and Stroke Hero Presentation**

Amy Beller, RN
 Stroke Program Navigator
 Reading Hospital Neurology - Tower Health

7:45 a.m. **Artificial Intelligence in Medicine:
 Harnessing AI in Neurological Care**

John Morren, MD
 Program Director,
 Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic
 Associate Professor of Neurology
 Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
 of Case Western Reserve University

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the basic concepts of artificial intelligence (AI)
2. Discuss the role of “augmented” intelligence in enhancing the synergy between artificial and human intelligence and its potential advancements in neurological care, research, and education
3. Evaluate the implementation of strategic, ethical, and responsible AI integration in neurology to improve patient outcomes and foster innovation

8:45 a.m. **Addressing Systemic
 Complications of Acute Stroke**

**Ann Leonhardt-Caprio, DNP, RN,
 ANP-BC, SCRN, ASC-BC, FAHA**
 UR Medicine Stroke Program Coordinator
 Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing
 University of Rochester Medical Center

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize common non-neurologic in-hospital complications following stroke
2. Evaluate and manage patients with post-stroke complications
3. Discuss the healthcare provider’s role in prevention of complications following stroke

9:30 a.m. **Break**

9:45 a.m. **Updates in Management of Primary
 Central Nervous System Lymphoma**

Lakshmi Nayak, MD
 Director, Center for CNS Lymphoma
 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston
 Associate Professor of Neurology
 Harvard Medical School

Learning Objectives:

1. Outline the diagnosis and treatment of newly diagnosed primary central nervous system lymphoma (PCNSL)
2. Discuss the biology of PCNSL and the role of novel agents in treatment of PCNSL

10:30 a.m. **The Urge to Move: What Every
 Neurologist Should Know About RLS**

Matthew Viereck, MD
 Reading Hospital Neurology, Tower Health

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize the core diagnostic criteria and clinical features of restless legs syndrome (RLS)
2. Describe the underlying neurobiology of RLS and its association with iron metabolism, dopaminergic pathways, and genetic factors
3. Review evidence-based treatment strategies for RLS, including pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches, and identify strategies for managing augmentation

11:15 a.m. **Evolution of Modern Spine Surgery**

Steven Yocom, DO, FACOS
 Director, Cooper Spine Center
 Associate Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery
 Cooper Medical School at Rowan University

Learning Objectives:

1. Review the historical and contemporary advancements in cervical spine surgery, including anterior and posterior approaches
2. Discuss the evolution of surgical techniques and technologies for managing spinal instability and trauma across the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar regions
3. Evaluate current evidence and clinical considerations in the treatment of thoracolumbar burst fractures, including conservative and surgical management strategies

12 p.m. **Lunch and Exhibitors**

12:45 p.m. **Robotics in Neurological
 Rehabilitation**

Craig DiTommaso, MD
 Director of Early Career Physician Development
 U.S. Physiatry

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify patients that are ideal for robot-assisted rehabilitation
2. List the benefits of robot-assisted rehabilitation
3. Describe the role robot-assisted rehabilitation plays in neuro-rehabilitation
4. Discuss the limitations of robotic-assisted rehabilitation

1:30 p.m. **Application of Emerging Biomarkers
 in Neurodegenerative Disease**

George Kannarkat, MD
 Assistant Professor of Neurology
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
 Neurology Consultant, Penn Neurology
 Grandview Hospital

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify recent and upcoming biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases
2. Describe the appropriate and inappropriate uses of emerging neurodegenerative disease biomarkers
3. Determine the applicability of neurodegenerative disease biomarkers to at-risk populations

2:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks**



GUEST SPEAKERS



Amy Beller, RN

Stroke Program Navigator
Reading Hospital Neurology - Tower Health

Amy Beller graduated with her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree from Alvernia University and served in the United States Army Nurse Corps before joining Reading Hospital.

Amy is passionate about her role as the Stroke Program Navigator where she focuses on helping patients manage the complexities of the stroke continuum of care.



John Morren, MD

Program Director, Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship
Cleveland Clinic
Associate Professor of Neurology
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
of Case Western Reserve University

Dr. Morren is the program director of the NM fellowship at Cleveland Clinic and associate professor of neurology at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He completed his medical degree at the University of The West Indies followed by a residency in Neurology at the Cleveland Clinic Florida and a fellowship in neuromuscular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. He is the recipient of an artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine grant to further ongoing research of AI in electrodiagnostic (EDX) medicine. He has led the AI subcommittee of the PPC in developing the AANEM's "Role of AI in Neuromuscular (NM) and EDX Medicine" position statement.



Ann Leonhardt-Caprio, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, SCRNP, ASC-BC, FAHA

UR Medicine Stroke Program Coordinator
Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing
University of Rochester Medical Center

Ann Leonhardt-Caprio is the Program Coordinator of the University of Rochester Comprehensive Stroke Center at Strong Memorial Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Rochester. She received undergraduate degrees in Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh, and Master of Science and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from the University of Rochester. She joined the UR stroke team in 2006 as a clinical nurse practitioner. She assumed the role of Program Coordinator in 2011, and in 2013 led efforts to achieve the hospital's certification as a Joint Commission/AHA Comprehensive Stroke Center. Ann's professional interests include stroke care of older adults, transitions of care, interprofessional education, and process improvement. She is an active member of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association as part of the Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing Council, and a passionate AHA volunteer. She is also active in the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, serving as an abstract reviewer for their annual conference and content reviewer for their professional journal. Ann's other professional memberships include the American Academy of Neurology, Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society, and the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State.



Lakshmi Nayak, MD

Director, Center for CNS Lymphoma
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston
Associate Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Nayak serves as Director of the Center for CNS Lymphoma at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. She is an Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and received her medical degree at Grant Medical College in Mumbai, India. She completed her residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell, and fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Her research includes development of novel therapies through preclinical and clinical studies for management of primary brain tumors, including glioblastoma and primary central nervous system lymphoma, with particular focus on molecular targeted agents and immunotherapeutics, including CAR T-cell therapy. She leads the international Neurologic Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (NANO) effort for evaluation of neurologic function in patients with brain tumors.



Matthew Viereck, MD

Reading Hospital Neurology, Tower Health

Dr. Viereck is a neurologist specializing in sleep medicine with Tower Health Reading Hospital. He completed his residency in neurology at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center followed by a fellowship in sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital-Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. His interests include emerging technology in healthcare, particularly in sleep medicine and neurology, home sleep monitoring, and community sleep health promotion.



Steven Yocom, DO, FACOS

Director, Cooper Spine Center
Associate Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery
Cooper Medical School at Rowan University

Dr. Yocom is Associate Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery, at Cooper Medical School at Rowan University and is the Director of the Cooper University Hospital Spine Program. He specializes in complex spinal surgery, utilizing advanced spinal techniques and cutting-edge technology to operate on all types of spinal disorders. He also lectures and trains other spinal surgeons both locally and nationally. Dr. Yocom employs minimally invasive surgical techniques in his practice and has a particular interest in spinal trauma and spinal cord injury, cancer treatment of the spine, and the treatment of degenerative disease of the spine. Dr. Yocom has access to the latest surgical and non-surgical treatment options available to help treat a wide range of back pain and spinal issues.



Craig DiTommaso, MD

Director of Early Career Physician Development
U.S. Physiatry

Dr. DiTommaso is the medical director of the Post Acute Rehabilitation Hospital in Humble, Texas. He completed an internship in Internal Medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans, and his residency at Baylor College of Medicine. He then completed a Brain Injury Medicine fellowship at University of Washington. He remained at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle as a neuro-trauma consultant. In Houston, he became medical director of inpatient rehabilitation for Baylor College of Medicine and served as an assistant professor. During his tenure with BCM, he was the medical director of Baylor St. Luke's Rehabilitation Services, Baylor St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center, and a primary attending on the TIRR Disorder of Consciousness program. Dr. DiTommaso also taught Brain Injury Medicine fellows, PM&R resident physicians, medical students, and physician assistant students. Dr. DiTommaso performs rehabilitation management, consultations, intrathecal baclofen pump management, and chemodenervation for patients with spasticity, traumatic neurological injury including traumatic brain injury, stroke, cerebral palsy, or spinal cord injury. He is an active member of the Rehabilitation Services Volunteer Project. His research interest include prognosis after traumatic brain injury, headache management after brain injuries including concussions, and spasticity treatment. He is an editor for both the PM&R journal and the CNS Rehabilitation section of the Knowledge NOW project.



George Kannarkat, MD

Assistant Professor of Neurology
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Neurology Consultant, Penn Neurology
Grandview Hospital

Dr. Kannarkat is a physician-scientist in movement disorders who studies clinically relevant molecular mechanisms of neurologic disease occurring outside of the central nervous system. He is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his undergraduate degree at Baylor University and a PhD and MD at Emory University School of Medicine, followed by a neurology residency at Johns Hopkins. His current interests are studying mechanisms starting outside the brain (protein misfolding, inflammation, and environmental exposures) that lead to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.