

2026

Johns Wooten Neurology SYMPOSIUM



SATURDAY

MAY 9, 2026

UVA Student Health and Wellness Building

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Johns Wooten Neurology Symposium brings together faculty from the UVA Department of Neurology to cover a range of updates and hot topics in the field. The 2026 Symposium will include focused updates in the diagnosis and management of multiple sclerosis, restless leg syndrome, and Parkinson's Disease, as well as novel therapeutics and recent clinical trials in brain tumors. Our invited keynote speaker, alumni Dr. Michael Hehir, will talk about his research in patient-centered outcomes in myasthenia gravis and neuromuscular disorders. There will also be sessions on timely topics in clinical practice such as advanced practice neurology, pediatric to adult transitions of care, brain death determination, and health policy updates in neurology.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Describe at least three key updates in the New McDonald Criteria and explain how these changes improve the accuracy and consistency of multiple sclerosis diagnosis.
- Identify and compare three validated measures of side-effect burden in myasthenia gravis therapies and explain how each can be applied to optimize clinical decision-making.
- Analyze the impact of treatment burden—including efficacy, side effects, and cost—on overall treatment value in myasthenia gravis by evaluating at least two patient scenarios.
- List at least three major barriers to developing an integrated advanced neurology practice in an academic department and describe how a structured APP fellowship program can address each barrier to improve access, education, and care delivery.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Physicians

Nurses

Advanced Practice Providers

AGENDA

7:30-8:00	Breakfast (provided), Registration
8:00-8:30	Multiple Sclerosis and the New McDonald Criteria, <i>Alexandra Simpson, MD</i>
8:30-8:40	Discussion
8:40-9:10	Updates in Restless Legs Syndrome, <i>Elias Karroum, MD PhD</i>
9:10-9:20	Discussion
9:20-9:50	Updates in Movement Disorders/Parkinson's Disease, <i>Alissa Higinbotham, MD</i>
9:50-10:00	Discussion
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Keynote and Q&A: <i>Mike Hehir, MD</i> , University of Vermont Medical Center Patient-Centered Outcomes/Neuromuscular/Myasthenia Gravis
11:15-11:45	Panel Discussion: NeuroFIRST Team, <i>Brett Schneider, FP-C, NRP; Jennie Schach, AG-ACNP; Stephanie Gillam, FNP; Alex Elias, MD; Kris Ziembra, MD, PhD; Bob Shin, MD</i> Moderator: <i>Andy Southerland, MD, MSc, FAAN, FAHA</i>
11:45-12:30	Lunch (provided) and Posters (highlights of UVA Neurology, residents and medical students)
12:30-1:00	Transition from Peds to Adult Neurology, <i>Elizabeth Harrison, MD, MS; Alana Harrison, APRN; Jennie Schach, AG-ACNP</i>
1:00-1:10	Discussion
1:10-1:40	Health Policy Updates in Neurology, <i>Jonathan Crowe, MD</i>
1:40-1:50	Discussion
1:50-2:20	Brain Death Determination, <i>Ashley Graziano, DO</i>
2:20-2:40	Break / Abstract Awards
2:40-3:10	Advanced Practice Neurology, <i>Alexander King, AG-ACNP</i>
3:10-3:20	Discussion
3:20-3:50	Neuro-oncology Updates, <i>Jasmin Jo, MD</i>
3:50-4:00	Discussion
4:00pm	Adjourn

TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION

	Early Bird Rates Now through 4/1/26	After After 4/2/26
Physicians	\$100	\$150
Nurses and Healthcare Providers	\$75	\$100
Residents/Students/Fellows	\$50	\$50
Industry Attendee (Non-exhibitor)	\$750	\$750

For the UVA HR Educational benefits please visit:
<https://hr.virginia.edu/career-development/education-benefits-0>

Planning Committee

Course Director

Andrew Southerland, MD, MSc, FAAN, FAHA
UVA Department of Neurology (Vascular Neurology)

Jordan Garris, MD

UVA Department of Neurology (Child Neurology)

Howard Goodkin, MD, PhD

UVA Department of Neurology (Child Neurology, Past Chair)

Alissa Higinbotham, MD

UVA Department of Neurology (Movement Disorders)

Alexander King, AG-ACNP

UVA Department of Neurology (Advanced Practice Neurology, Movement Disorders)

Wendy Sewack, M.Ed, MPH

UVA and Invited Speakers

All speakers are from UVA other than Dr. Michael Hehir who is with the University of Vermont Medical Center

Jonathan Crowe, MD

Alex Elias, MD

Stephanie Gillam, FNP

Ashley Graziano, DO

Alana Harrison, APRN

Elizabeth Harrison, MD, MS

Mike Hehir, MD

Jasmin Jo, MD

Elias Karroum, MD, PhD

Jennie Schach, AG-ACNP

Brett Schneider, FP-C, NRP

Bob Shin, MD

Alexandra Simpson, MD

Kris Ziembra, MD, PhD



ACCREDITATION AND DESIGNATION STATEMENT

In support of improving patient care, UVA Health Continuing Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing

Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physicians

UVA Health Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of **6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses

UVA Health Continuing Education awards up to **6 contact hour(s)** for nurses who participate in this educational activity and complete the post activity evaluation.

Hours of Participation

The University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing awards **6.0 hours of participation**

(consistent with the designated number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ or ANCC contact hours) to a participant who successfully completes this educational activity. The University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing maintains a record of participation for six (6) years.



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