The Brigham and Women’s/Harvard Headache Medicine Fellowship Program

Based at
The Graham Headache Center at Brigham and Women’s/Faulkner Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

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Program Developed January 2008
Description revised July 2011, October 2012, March 2015
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1.0 Program Overview

The Graham Headache Center and the Harvard Medical School have a long tradition of excellence in headache clinical care, research, and education. Established in 1970 by Dr. John Graham, the Graham Headache Center was the first headache clinic in Boston and for some time the largest in the United States. The Graham Headache Center is internationally recognized for clinical excellence, for pioneering new approaches to headache treatment, and for an interest in women’s headache problems. The United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS) accredited our fellowship program in 2008.

The Headache Center provides clinical training for residents who choose to do elective rotations in Headache Medicine. We also offer a 1-year UCNS-accredited Headache Medicine Fellowship. The program focuses on outpatient management of headache, the development of clinical research skills, and medical writing. The trainee will see headache outpatients in several settings. In addition, the fellow is expected to participate in headache research and paper writing.

Dr. Elizabeth Loder is the Chief of the Division of Headache and Pain, Department of Neurology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Paul Rizzoli is the Director of the Graham Headache Center and the Director of the Headache Medicine Fellowship. Other on-site services include the Sleep Center (Dr. Milena Pavlova), neuropsychology, behavioral neurology, epilepsy, and neuroradiology. Faculty for the headache center includes five UCNS-certified headache medicine doctors (4 neurologists, 1 internist), and 1 non-fellowship trained headache doctor. In addition, the fellow has access to over 100 full-time neurology and child neurology faculty, a large neurosurgery department, an active neuroscience faculty, a large neuroradiology department, and the broader resources of a major medical school and several affiliated teaching hospitals, including orofacial pain and other specialty programs.

The prerequisites for fellowship training usually include successful completion of an accredited residency-training program in a relevant discipline (i.e., neurology, psychiatry, anesthesiology, or internal medicine) and board eligibility in the field. Salary is supported by the fellow’s clinical effort, billing for which requires a full Massachusetts license and full and complete hospital and insurance credentialing. For example, unless other arrangements are made, clinical J-1 Visa holders would not be eligible to participate since they are restricted from billing independently.
2.0 Faculty

2.1 Neurology and Headache Medicine

Paul Rizzoli, MD, FAAN
Director, Graham Headache Center
Director, Headache Medicine Fellowship
Department of Neurology
Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospitals
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Harvard Medical School

William Mullally, MD
Neurology and Headache Medicine
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates

Paul Mathew, MD
Associate Neurologist
  Brigham & Women’s Faulkner Hospital
  Department of Neurology
  John R. Graham Headache Center
Director of Headache Medicine
  Cambridge Health Alliance
  Division of Neurology
Instructor in Neurology, Harvard Medical School

Rebecca Burch, MD
Associate Neurologist
  Brigham & Women’s Faulkner Hospital
  Department of Neurology
  John R. Graham Headache Center
Instructor in Neurology, Harvard Medical School
2.2  **Internal Medicine and Headache Medicine**

Elizabeth Loder, MD, MPH  
Chief, Division of Headache and Pain  
Department of Neurology  
Brigham and Women’s /Faulkner Hospitals  
Associate Professor of Neurology  
Harvard Medical School

2.2.1  **Internal Medicine**

Dhirendra Bana, MD

2.2.2  **Pediatric Neurology and Headache Medicine**

Alyssa Lebel, MD  
Pediatric Headache Medicine  
Senior Associate in Neurology; Senior Associate in Pain Medicine  
Assistant Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School  
Anna Minster, MD  
Pediatric Headache Medicine  
Assistant in Neurology  
Instructor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School

2.2.3  **Oral and Maxillofacial Pain**

Steven Scrivani, DDS, DMSC  
Director, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pain  
Director, Orofacial Pain Residency Program
2.2.4 Headache Research

Rami Burstein, PhD
John Hedley-Whyte Professor of Anaesthesia
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
3.0 Curriculum of the Fellowship

3.1 Adult Outpatient Care

Adult outpatient care is provided at the Graham Headache Center. Under the tutelage of the faculty, the fellow will care for a large and diverse outpatient population, with a broad spectrum of headache syndromes of varying complexity. These patients are referred from a regional and national base and present with a broad range of interesting, unusual and refractory disorders.

3.2 Pediatric Outpatient Care

The Fellow will also work with Dr. Alyssa Lebel, the Director of the Pediatric Headache Service at Children’s Hospital and with Dr. Anna Minster, Assistant in Neurology. The Fellow will learn how to diagnose and manage pediatric headache disorders.

3.3 Liaison Headache Consultation

The Fellow will train with Dr. Burch in providing outpatient and inpatient consultation to other medical disciplines within a women’s specialty care center in the management of complex or comorbid headache disorders.

3.4 Electives

Electives are available in orofacial pain, anesthesia pain interventions and addiction medicine, among others.
3.5 Inpatient Care

The Fellow will follow inpatients with headache admitted to the Faulkner Hospital or Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Patients are occasionally admitted from the headache outpatient service for inpatient management when outpatient therapies fail or when the severity of the headache disorder or the associated medical or psychiatric comorbidities requires it. In addition, patients are admitted from the Emergency Department. The Fellow will follow and manage inpatients with primary headaches, using specific intravenous medications and detoxification techniques to accurately and effectively treat these patients. The Fellow will also follow patients with secondary headache.
4.0 Research Opportunities in Headache

The faculty has a broad range of research interests, providing many opportunities for research. The Headache Center Faculty has published over 100 articles and book chapters and two books. The Center is involved in a number of collaborative research projects, and performs self-funded small research projects and pilot studies.
5.0 Institutional Environment

5.1 Department of Neurology

The Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women’s/Faulkner Hospital has hundreds of full-time faculty with diverse clinical and research interests. The adult neurology program includes adult neurology residents, pediatric fellows and clinical and research fellows. The Department is committed to training clinicians skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of neurologic disorders who are able to conduct or interpret clinical and basic research. In addition to headache, the Department has strong subspecialty clinical and research postgraduate fellowships in the following areas: epilepsy and EEG, EMG and neuromuscular disease, stroke, and movement disorders.

5.2 Affiliated Harvard Medical School Programs

Harvard Medical School (HMS) and its affiliated hospitals are a major health resource in the Boston metropolitan area and attract patients from around the country and internationally. We serve several million area residents and provide tertiary care in headache for the region comprising the greater Boston area and beyond. HMS has strong departments in Neuroradiology, Neurosurgery, Epidemiology and Population Health as well as Dentistry.

The Brigham and Women’s/Faulkner campus is geographically divided into two major sites – the Faulkner Hospital campus and the main Brigham and Women’s campus. These sites, both in Boston, are about fifteen minutes apart by car, and are linked by a shuttle bus that runs frequently throughout the day. The BWH campus is physically adjacent to Children’s Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Harvard Medical School Research Buildings, a convenience for Fellows who want to do rotations there.

5.2.1 Children’s Hospital Pediatric Headache Clinic

The Pediatric Headache Clinic is physically located at the Children’s Hospital in Boston. It provides outpatient headache evaluation and treatment to children and adolescents from a wide geographic referral base. In addition to a staff of neurologist with a special interest in headache, the clinic offers a multidisciplinary approach to chronic pain and headache, with specialists consisting of behavioral medicine and psychiatry specialists and a full complement of medical specialties.
5.2.2 MGH Orofacial Pain Unit

The Massachusetts General Hospital maintains an active outpatient practice in the field of orofacial pain. Under the direction of Dr. Steven Scrivani, the unit provides expert evaluation of dental and jaw problems that may cause or contribute to the experience of head and neck pain.
6.0 Directions for Application

The Headache Medicine Fellowship is designed for individuals who have completed an ACGME accredited residency who are interested in pursuing intensive training in the area of Headache Medicine with the long-term goal of academic or specialty practice.

Applications

Our fellowship uses the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) application process www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras/fellowship_applicants

Tentative timeline:

July 15, one year prior to start date: Application process begins

July-November: Review applications, interviews

First Monday in December: Offers made electronically. Applicants have a week to decide.

Second Monday in December: Second round of offers made.

For questions:

Contact: Paul Rizzoli, MD at prizzoli@partners.org or by mail at 1153 Centre Street, Suite 4970, Boston, MA, 02130
8.0 Faculty Biosketches

Elizabeth Loder, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief, Division of Headache and Pain
Department of Neurology
Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospital

Dr. Loder is Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Chief, Division of Headache and Pain in the Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital. A headache clinician, researcher and clinical epidemiology editor for the BMJ, she is the past President of the American Headache Society and has served on the Executive Council of the International Headache Society. She is a past president of the New England Pain Society and is the Vice President of the Headache Cooperative of New England. She has written over 100 original and review articles and book chapters and edited three books, including *Refractory Migraine*.

Paul B. Rizzoli, M.D., FAAN, FAHS
Director, John R. Graham Headache Center
Director, Headache Fellowship Program

Paul B. Rizzoli, M.D. is Clinical Director of the John R. Graham Headache Center, BW/F Department of Neurology, at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital in Boston and director of the fellowship training program. He trained in Internal Medicine at Brown University/Roger Williams General Hospital and in Neurology at the Longwood Neurology Training Program at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He maintained a private practice of adult neurology for fifteen years before coming to Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital as Chief of Neurology in 1999 until transitioning to the Brigham & Women’s Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital in September 2004. He is an Assistant Professor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Neurology, and Headache Medicine.

Paul G. Mathew, M.D., FAHS

Paul G. Mathew, MD, FAHS is a member of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Faculty, and holds a joint clinical position. He serves as the Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Brigham & Women's Hospital, Department of Neurology, John R. Graham Headache Center, and also serves as the Director of Headache Medicine at the Cambridge Health Alliance. He completed his neurology residency at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, and then completed a fellowship in headache medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He is board certified in neurology and headache medicine. In addition to conventional headache treatments, Dr. Mathew performs Botox injections, trigger point injections, and nerve blocks. He is involved in the training of neurology, psychiatry, internal medicine, family medicine, and dental residents, as well as two headache medicine fellows. Regarding medical student education, he serves as a preceptor for the Harvard Medical School Cambridge Integrated Clerkship, and as the Harvard Medical School Advanced Neurology Clerkship Director. He has written multiple publications, and has presented at both national and international conferences. Dr. Mathew serves as a peer reviewer for multiple journals including Cephalalgia, Headache, Headache Currents, Mayo Clinic Proceedings, Neurology, and the New England Journal of Medicine. He is also on the editorial board of the journal Practical Neurology. He is a member of several medical societies including the American Academy of Neurology, the Headache Cooperative of New England, the American Headache Society, and the International Headache Society.
Rebecca C. Burch, M.D.
Dr. Burch is a headache medicine specialist at the John R. Graham Headache Center, and is also the director of the Center's Outpatient Infusion Program. She also provides care in headache medicine at the BWH Ambulatory Center in Chestnut Hill. Dr. Burch received an MD from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed her Neurology residency at Boston Medical Center. She completed a fellowship in Headache Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's/ Faulkner Hospitals prior to joining the faculty, and is board certified in neurology and headache medicine. Her research interests include headache epidemiology and management as well as medical education. She was the recipient of a 2011 American Headache Society Fellowship Award.

William Joseph Mullally, M.D.
Dr. Mullally is the Associate Chief of Clinical Neurology at the Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital. He completed his internal medicine residency at Rutgers Affiliated Hospitals and his neurology residency at the University of Miami and the Harvard Longwood Neurology training program at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Mullally was a chief medical resident at Rutgers and chief resident in Neurology at Harvard. After completing his neurology residency in 1982, Dr. Mullally opened a comprehensive headache clinic in New Jersey. In 1989, he began working at Harvard Community Health Plan (now Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates) and started the headache program which he directed until he moved to work full time at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in May 2013. Dr. Mullally is also Director of Sports Neurology at the MGH/BWH Foxborough facility, and sees general neurology patients at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital. He has been a member of the American Headache Society since 1982, and is board certified in Internal Medicine, Neurology, and Headache Medicine.

Dr. Dhirendra Bana
Dr. Bana is an original staff member of the Graham Headache Center. A colleague and friend of Dr. John Graham, he has a longstanding interest in medical informatics and computerized records. He has collaborated on numerous clinical reports and articles, including the original description of retroperitoneal fibrosis due to methysergide.

Huma Sheikh, M.D.
Dr. Sheikh is a headache medicine and stroke specialist with dual positions at the John R. Graham Headache Center as well as South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. She completed her internship and a residency in Neurology, where she served as Chief Resident, as well as completing a Vascular Neurology Fellowship, at the Montefiore Medical Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. She then joined the John Graham Headache Center for a fellowship in Headache Medicine, and is board certified in neurology and vascular neurology. She is a recipient of the American Headache Society’s 2012 "Frontiers in Headache Research" Scholarship Award and her interests include the pathophysiology and interaction of stroke and headache syndromes.