MCGHealth Neuroscience Center of Excellence: Your Best Referral Choice

As a national referral center, MCGHealth Neuroscience Center of Excellence offers a team of skilled neurologists and neurosurgeons who will diagnose and treat the full spectrum of neurological disorders in your adult and pediatric patients. The staff includes renowned experts in Parkinson’s disease, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), epilepsy, functional and cerebrovascular neurosurgery, spine surgery, brain tumor surgery and Gamma Knife® radiosurgery.

Our physicians will see your patients quickly, submit prompt, thorough reports on their findings and keep you updated on their progress.

To refer an adult or pediatric patient, call 706-721-4581 or FAX 706-721-1459

Comprehensive Neurological Services for Adults and Children

The Center’s services include:

A TJC-accredited Stroke Program Offering Interventional Care. The program is staffers by a nationally renowned stroke expert and features:

- A team of stroke specialists that includes neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists and neuropsychologists
- Advanced technology, including a state-of-the-art angiography suite
- The area’s only interventional care to treat strokes by removing clots using medical devices threaded through a patient’s arteries.
- Embolization of ruptured aneurysms and brain vascular malformations
- Surgical removal of plaque and carotid artery stenting
- Open vascular surgery for ruptured aneurysms and brain vascular malformations
- Revascularization procedures for diseases like moyamoya or sickle cell vasculopathy
- Gamma Knife® treatment for brain vascular malformations
- A Neurointensive Care Unit supervised by neurologists and neurosurgeons
- Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation therapy
- Medical Social Workers, Licensed Dietitians and Psychologists
- Preventive and educational outreach services
- REACH Call, a teledicine program that lets neurologists at MCGHealth provide rural physicians with stroke consultations 24/7
Neurovascular and Endovascular Treatments. The Center has a team of endovascular neurosurgeons who are trained in both open vascular and endovascular techniques. One of these team members is nationally renowned for his expertise and skills in these techniques. The staff also includes neurologists with advanced training in stroke and other neurovascular diseases and interventional neurologists. These professionals work together to treat cerebral aneurysms, cerebral arteriovenous malformations, carotid stenosis, stroke, cerebral vascular insufficiency and other cerebrovascular conditions. The Center offers:

- A team of physicians and surgeons who focus on stroke and aneurysm care
- The latest diagnostic tests and technology, including a state-of-the-art bi-planar neuroangiography suite
- Artherectomy therapies to remove plaque from the arteries and avoid stents or surgeries
- Carotid artery stenting to avoid more invasive endocardectomy
- Endovascular coiling, a non-surgical procedure that uses the body's arteries to deliver platinum coils that stop blood flow to aneurysms
- Clipping of aneurysms
- A Neurointensive Care Unit staffed by neurologists
- Gamma Knife® Center radiosurgery for cerebral malformations and other conditions

A Spine Center of Excellence. If you have patients with congenital defects, injuries or degenerative conditions of the neck and back, such as herniated discs, spinal stenosis, scoliosis, spinal infections, fractures, tumors and other conditions, our Spine Center can help. This national and global referral center offers:

- Neurosurgeons who treat both adult and pediatric patients with cervical, thoracic or lumbar spine conditions
- A globally recognized spine surgeon who is fellowship trained in both neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery and performs highly complex surgical procedures as well as surgeries on patients who have multiple medical problems that require coordinated care
- Surgical and non-surgical solutions for both common conditions and complex cases
- Minimally invasive surgical procedures
- Clear, high quality CT scans and MRIs for more accurate diagnoses. These are the result of strict protocols, highly trained and experienced technicians, and advanced imaging equipment.
- A strong working relationship with general neurologists. This enables our physicians to diagnose unusual neurological conditions and consider any possible non-surgical treatment options first.
- A dedicated neuroanesthesiologist, allowing us to perform more sophisticated neurosurgical procedures
- Spinal embolization
- Radiosurgery

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Neuroscience Center Practice Site

- A “Weekly Spine Conference,” at which neurosurgeons discuss in-house cases and review complex spinal cases referred from around the world, letting our physicians gain unparalleled experience and improve patient care and outcomes
- Bloodless medicine
- Spinal stimulators to relieve back pain
- Physical and occupational therapy

Epilepsy Programs for Children and Adults. The MCGHealth Epilepsy Center is recognized by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers as a Medical Surgical Level IV Epilepsy Center, the highest possible designation. It serves as a national referral center for adult and pediatric patients and is one of the most experienced programs in the country. The Center offers:

- Adult and pediatric epileptologists
- A dedicated Epilepsy Monitoring Unit
- The full range of epilepsy surgeries from vagal nerve stimulation to temporal lobectomy to hemispherectomy
- Neuropsychological testing
- Pharmacists with advanced knowledge of antiepileptic drugs
- Nurse Clinicians who educate patients and answer day-to-day questions
- Medical Social Workers
- An Epilepsy Coordinator who handles scheduling, admissions and insurance issues

Brain Tumor Care for Adults and Children. The Center provides state-of-the-art care and surgery for adults and children with tumors of the brain or spinal column or neurological complications of cancer. Patients are treated by skilled and experienced neurosurgeons who work closely with oncologists in the MCGHealth Cancer Center. Services include:

- Advanced diagnostic equipment, including single photon computed tomography (SPECT) and stereotactic biopsy, to diagnose tumors in hard-to-reach areas of the brain
- Responsive, coordinated care by neurosurgeons, including one who is fellowship-trained in skull-base tumors, neuroradiologists, radiation oncologists and other caregivers
- Traditional surgery as well as noninvasive Gamma Knife® Radiosurgery for inoperable tumors
- Access to clinical trials, including Phase 1 trials not available at other area hospital

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An ALS Clinic Certified by the ALS Association. Your patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) can see their entire ALS treatment team on the same day, in the same place and receive comprehensive, specialized care that may slow the progression of the disease. The only ALS clinic in the area, it offers:

- A full range of diagnostic tests, including electromyograms, nerve conduction studies, MRIs and spinal taps
- The latest medications for the treatment of ALS and its symptoms
- Physical, occupational, respiratory and speech therapy
- Registered Dietitians, Nurse Case Managers and Medical Social Workers
- Representatives of the ALS Association who help patients and their families access durable medical equipment and other services
- Augmentative communications specialists

A Memory Disorders/Alzheimer’s Clinic. The skilled physicians in MCGHealth’s Memory Disorders Program offer comprehensive evaluations and care for Alzheimer’s disease and other memory disorders, all from one central location. The program offers:

- Diagnosis and care by neurologists, psychiatrists and neuropsychologists who specialize in Alzheimer’s disease
- A comprehensive diagnostic work-up that includes a neurological assessment, cognitive testing, blood work, CT scans, MRIs, PET scans and other tests
- An individualized treatment plan and follow-up care
- Medications to improve symptoms and slow the progression of the disease
- Psychiatric care, if needed
- Education, emotional support and information on local resources
- Access to research and clinical trials, including Phase 1 trials not available at other local facilities

The Area’s Only Multiple Sclerosis Center. Your patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) will receive complete and coordinated medical care as well as rehabilitation and support services at the Augusta Multiple Sclerosis Center. This joint venture between MCGHealth and Walton Rehabilitation Hospital offers:

- Access to neurologists who specialize in MS and deliver coordinated care including drug therapy and plasma exchange
- Diagnostic tests including blood tests, spinal taps, ultrasound scans, MRIs and evoked potential tests
- Inpatient and outpatient physical, occupational, speech, vestibular and swallowing therapy
- Pain and spasticity management
- Assistive technology and devices
- Nurse Case Manager, Medical Social Workers and nutritional counseling

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The Area’s Only Movement Disorders/Parkinson’s Center of Excellence. The MCGHealth Movement Disorders Clinic delivers coordinated, multidisciplinary care from one central location. Designated by the National Parkinson’s Foundation, Inc. as a Center of Excellence, the facility offers:

- Diagnosis and care for Parkinson’s disease, dystonia, essential tremor, Huntington’s disease, Tourette’s syndrome and other movement disorders
- Coordinated care by a team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists and neuroradiologists
- Neuropsychological evaluations
- Surgery, including deep brain stimulation (DBS) to deliver electrical stimulation to targeted areas in the brain that control movement. This blocks the abnormal nerve signals that cause tremors and other symptoms of Parkinson’s disease.
- Gamma Knife® radiosurgery for non-surgical treatment of these conditions
- Botulinum Toxin (BoTox) injections and other medications to control tremors and other symptoms
- Evaluation and treatment of sleep disorders in Parkinson’s disease or parkinsonism
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Access to clinical trials

Pediatric Neurology. The MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center offers a range of neurological services for pediatric patients. These include diagnosis and care for:

- Epilepsy/seizure disorders
- Cerebral Palsy
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Spina Bifida
- Brain Tumors and Aneurysms
- Intracranial Hemorrhage Hydrocephalus
- Spinal disorders (Kyphosis, Scoliosis, Spondylitis)
- Other neurological conditions

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MCGHealth Neuroscience Center Locations and Hours of Operation

**MCGHealth Neuroscience Center**

MCGHealth Ambulatory Care Center  
1447 Harper Street, 4th Floor  
Augusta, GA  30912

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**MCGHealth Pediatric Neuroscience Center**

MCGHealth Children's Medical Center  
1446 Harper Street, 2nd Floor  
Augusta, GA  30912

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To refer an adult or pediatric patient, call 706-721-4581 or FAX 706-721-1459.
Augusta Multiple Sclerosis Center
MCGHealth Medical Center
1220 15th Street, 6th Floor
Augusta, GA 30912

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
A Neurological Staff with Breadth and Depth
The MCGHealth Neuroscience Center staffs the largest, most diverse team of neurological specialists in the area. The team includes:

**Askiel Bruno, MD**
Clinical Interests: Stroke

**J. Edward Hartmann, MD**
Clinical Interests: Neuromuscular Diseases, ALS

**David C. Hess, MD**
Clinical Interests: Stroke

**Edward L. Hogan, MD**
Clinical Interests: Multiple Sclerosis

**Shyamal Mehta, MD**
Clinical Interests: Movement Disorders

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Neuroscience Center Practice Site

Sabina Miranda, DO
Clinical Interests: Epilepsy, EEG

John C. Morgan, MD, Ph.D.
Clinical Interests: Movement Disorders

Anthony M. Murro, MD
Clinical Interests: Epilepsy, EEG, Sleep Medicine

Fenwick T. Nichols, III, MD
Clinical Interests: Stroke

J. Ned Pruitt, MD
Clinical Interests: Neuromuscular Diseases, General Neurology

Michael H. Rivner, MD
Clinical Interests: Neurophysiology, Electromyography, ALS

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Neuroscience Center Practice Site

Kapil Sethi, MD
Clinical Interests: Movement Disorders

Suzanne H. Smith, MD
Clinical Interests: Headaches, Memory Disorders

Thomas Swift, MD
Clinical Interests: General Neurology

Jeffrey A. Switzer, DO
Clinical Interests: Stroke

Mitzi J. Williams, MD
Clinical Interests: Multiple Sclerosis

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Pediatric Neurologists

James E. Carroll, MD
Clinical Interests: General Child Neurology, Neuromuscular Disorders, Metabolic Diseases, Cerebral Palsy

Bernard Maria, MD
Clinical Interests: General Child Neurology

Yong D. Park, MD
Clinical Interests: Pediatric Epilepsy

Elizabeth Sekul, MD
Clinical Interests: Tremors, Spasticity, EMG, Pediatric Epilepsy

Suzanne M. Strickland, MD
Clinical Interests: Epilepsy

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Neurosurgeons

**Cargill H. Alleyne, MD**
Clinical Interests: Vascular and Interventional Neurosurgery

**Haroon Choudhri, MD**
Clinical Interests: Complex Spine Surgery

**Cole A. Giller, MD**
Clinical Interests: Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery, Epilepsy Surgery, Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Surgery, Radiosurgery (Gamma Knife)

**Scott Rahimi, MD**
Clinical Interests: Vascular and Interventional Neurosurgery, Spine Surgery, General Neurosurgery

**Samuel D. Macomson, MD**
Clinical Interests: Pediatric Neurosurgery, Spine Surgery, General Neurosurgery

**John Tuttle, MD**
Clinical Interests: Complex Spine Surgery, Cervical and Lumbar Degenerative Diseases

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John R. Vender,  MD
Clinical Interests: Brain Tumors, Spine Surgery, Spinal Stimulators, Radiosurgery (Gamma Knife)

Radiation Oncologists
Chris Sheils,  MD
Clinical Interests: Brain Tumors, Radiosurgery (Gamma Knife)

Neuropsychologists
Morris Cohen, Ph.D.  (Pediatric Neuropsychologist)
Clinical Interests: Learning Disabilities, ADD, Epilepsy, Brain Tumors, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury

Gregory Lee, Ph.D.  (Adult Neuropsychologist)
Clinical Interests: Neuropsychological Assessments, Wada procedures on Epilepsy Surgery Candidates, Cortical Mapping of Sensorimotor and Language Areas, Evaluation of Memory During Neurosurgery.

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MCGHealth Neuroscience Center of Excellence sponsors both residency and fellowship programs designed to educate the highly skilled neurologists needed to treat future generations of patients in our community and around the world.

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