

Visiting Scholar Program *Observers in Neurosciences*



About Barrow Neurological Institute

Barrow Neurological Institute, located on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center (SJHMC), is part of Dignity Health Arizona. Since opening its doors in 1962, Barrow has focused on three pillars: patient care, education, and research. Consistently ranked as a top hospital in the neurosciences by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report*, Barrow is a national and even global destination for neuroscience services.

World-Class Education

As an academic medical center, Barrow strives to provide extensive educational opportunities to the local, national, and international neuroscience communities.

These goals are pursued vigorously by the faculty within the Barrow Department of Neurosurgery, which is home to more than 30 neurosurgeons, 28 residents, and five clinical fellows. The breadth of the clinical teaching experience is reflected by the volume of patients undergoing surgery at Barrow, which exceeds 6,000 annually.

Cutting-Edge Research

Barrow is also renowned as a translational and clinical research facility, where more than 30 neuroscientists are committed to improving the lives of people with neurological diseases.

Surgical procedures pioneered in Barrow laboratories have saved the lives of many patients treated at the Institute and elsewhere. Specifically, Barrow is a world leader in the treatment, research, and education of cerebrovascular disorders. Additionally, the Institute's clinical research findings on acute spinal cord injuries have been heralded as landmarks in treatment techniques.

Going Global

The rigorous academic environment at Barrow is further enriched by international scholars (fully trained neurosurgeons) who visit Barrow for short-term or extended stays. These scholars greatly improve their understanding of what is possible in clinical neurosurgery, with its cutting-edge technology, as well as how the latest in neuroscience research translates into patient care. These scholars in turn enrich the learning environment at Barrow by sharing their unique international perspectives with the Institute's attending neurosurgeons and trainees.

Purpose

To provide visiting neuroscience faculty from around the country, and especially from foreign countries, with the opportunity to learn techniques and skills which will allow them to improve the care of their patients back home—while also empowering them to share their unique perspectives with our residents, fellows, and attending physicians.

Categories of Visiting Scholars

Foreign neurosurgeons who:

- have been awarded an international fellowship through the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the American Academy of Neurological Surgery (AAoNS), or through the World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS)
- have been awarded the *Marjorie Newsome Travelling Fellowship*, through Mercy Healthcare UK
- are in their final year of training or in active practice with endorsement from their neurosurgery department chair
- have been awarded competitive Barrow research fellowships

Foreign and U.S. neurosurgeons who:

- have active leadership roles in the above organizations
- are at the chair or program director level
- have a request for participation from their chair
- have been invited by the president and CEO of Barrow

Requirements for Approval of Visiting Scholars

- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of recommendation/endorsement from neurology/neurosurgery chair (dated and on official letterhead)
- Copy of medical school diploma
- Residency training certificate or letter of continuation from institution
- Recent professional headshot with clear background
- Immunization records, including results of recent TB test
- **COVID vaccination is required**
- Background clearance from local law enforcement authority stating no criminal records (must be dated and on official letterhead)

Continued

- Flu vaccination (if you are traveling from Nov. 1 to March 31)
- Drug test clearance
- English proficiency proof, if your country's first language is not English
- Support letter from home institution or bank stating that enough funds are available to the scholar to cover the cost of the visit
- Paragraph describing your educational goals and objectives of your visit to Barrow
- Copy of your passport and visa
- We encourage you to obtain health insurance coverage while traveling, in case of emergency

All non-English documents need to be translated to English. All documents need to be on official letterhead.

Educational Objectives

Under the direction of the president and CEO of Barrow Neurological Institute, the designated neurosurgery attending physician, or the director of neurosurgery research, the following educational opportunities are available to visiting scholars:

- Observe the most complex neurosurgical procedures in the 11 dedicated neurosurgical operating suites
- Participate in daily teaching rounds, where diagnostic decisions are made and treatment options are formulated through a multidisciplinary team approach
- Attend weekly Neurosurgery Clinical Conferences and Neuroscience Grand Rounds
- Attend monthly Journal Clubs, where the latest peer-reviewed publications are discussed and critically evaluated
- Observe research projects, as time and laboratory space permit
- Participate in ongoing laboratory studies when possible
- Gain insight into ongoing clinical research studies
- Observe daily patient evaluation in the outpatient clinic setting

Limitations

- Visiting scholars must sign a confidentiality agreement prior to starting the program
- Visiting scholars are not permitted to provide medical care to SJHMC patients
- Visiting scholars are not permitted to video or photographically record SJHMC patients
- Visiting scholars are not permitted to remove SJHMC

protected health information from the medical center or transmit SJHMC protected health information to remote locations

- Visiting scholars will not receive any academic credit for this experience
- Visiting scholars may not represent themselves as anything other than a *visiting scholar* in a “clinical observer” status
- Visiting scholars understand that they volunteer their time and that no funding is available for stipends or housing, unless otherwise outlined through other agreements (i.e., Mercy Healthcare UK, competitive research fellowships)
- Visiting scholars may visit Barrow for a period of up to three (3) months. Visiting scholars who have been awarded a competitive research fellowship may visit Barrow for a period of up to one (1) year, with a possible one-time extension of an additional year
- Visiting scholars must respect and comply with all hospital rules and policies, including HIPPA, regarding patients’ rights to confidentiality and privacy
- This is an unpaid observership, and it doesn’t grant residency into the neurosurgery program, an immigration status change, or any compensation for the time spent at Barrow
- Observership does not guarantee research opportunities. If you are interested in research, please apply via the research department at Barrow. You will be selected based on the department’s guidelines.
- When you are not in the OR, conferences, or courses, please utilize library resources

Certificate of Completion

- Visiting scholars are awarded a *letter of completion*, which will serve as verification of time spent at Barrow, as well as verification of meeting educational objectives
- Visiting scholars in a competitive research fellowship are awarded a *certificate of completion*

IMPORTANT; PLEASE READ

- Please do not book accommodations without discussing with Ravneet Kaur. We recommend that you stay at a minimum distance from the hospital and refrain from paying Airbnb in full.
- After approval, you need to schedule your check-in three weeks in advance by emailing Malekka Durden at Malekka.Durden@CommonSpirit.org