The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center
Combining advanced neurologic care in a caring environment

IN THIS ISSUE:
- Coordinated Imaging Services
- Neurorehabilitation
- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Meet Our Faculty
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Contents

Q & A: Making a Vision Reality: A Conversation with Neurosciences Leadership at Stanford 1  
Frank M. Longo, MD, PhD; Gary K. Steinberg, MD, PhD; Max Wintermark, MD, and Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD

The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center 3  
Combining advanced neurologic care in a caring environment

Coordinated Imaging Services 5  
All in One Location

Neurorehabilitation 6  
Helping patients maximize function

Deep Brain Stimulation 7  
Bringing relief to patients with movement disorders

Meet Our Faculty 9

Cover Story  
The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center  
Page 3
Stanford Neuroscience Health Center
One Place for all Neurological Care

21
Neuroscience subspecialties

Over 200 neuroscience subspecialty doctors

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Named in 2015 as one of NIH Alzheimer’s Disease Centers, with exclusive designation as an Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.

First clinical PET/MRI to detect diagnostic details other MRIs can’t

PATIENT CENTERED CARE

Single check-in for all appointments

Dimmer switches respect patients with light sensitivities

Wider hallways accommodate patients and families together

Clinical trials investigators share space with clinicians

Innovative Clinical Trials
using Stem Cell Transplants for Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Patients

Wellness Center helps patients restore function to the body & mind

REGAINING MOBILITY

Autonomic Lab locates where the nervous system is impaired

Balance Lab evaluates movement disorders to guide recovery

Zero Gravity machine supports walking recovery, safety and mobility restoration

Practice Car helps patients restore driving privileges

Mobility Garden lets patients practice walking in a natural setting to regain independence
Why did Stanford Health Care build the new Neuroscience Health Center?

Frank M. Longo, MD, PhD: Many of our neurology and neurosurgery patients often need care in several ways—maybe a CT scan, a visit with a doctor and a session with a physical therapist. The traditional version of that care has been to have services at different locations. We felt it was important to have all our specialized care teams together in one place.

Gary K. Steinberg, MD, PhD: The impairments that accompany patients with neurologic disease and illness can make it difficult for them to navigate to different places. As a leader in patient-centered care, we wanted to integrate all our services into one location to create an optimal patient experience where people feel that doctors are coming to them, not the other way around.

What sets the Stanford Neurosciences Health Center apart from other similar centers?

Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD: This state-of-the-art facility has been designed to support patients throughout their journey of care. It brings together neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists and other care providers from 21 neuroscience subspecialties to work side-by-side, allowing teams to share their expertise and information rapidly.

Max Wintermark, MD: We are one of the first, if not the only center in the country, where patients with neurological disorders can get the same integrated, coordinated approach to care that you find in many cancer centers. Patients will be able to come into one place, on one day, see their clinician, get the testing and imaging they need, and then discuss their results. That will make a big difference for our patients.
What's Inside?
The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center brings together multiple subspecialties under one roof for coordinated, collaborative patient care and treatment. Clinics include:
- Brain Aneurysm Clinic
- Brain Tumor Center
- Comprehensive Epilepsy Program
- Cyberknife Stereotactic Radiosurgery Program
- Deep Brain Stimulation Program
- General Neurology Clinic
- Interventional Neuroradiology Program
- Memory Disorders Center
- Movement Disorders Center
- Moyamoya Center
- Multiple Sclerosis Center
- Neurocritical Care Program
- Neurodiagnostic Labs
- Neurogenetic Oncology Program
- Neurological Spine Disorders Clinic
- Neuromuscular Program
- Neuropsychology Clinic
- Neurosurgery Outreach Clinics
- Outpatient Neurologic Rehabilitation Program
- Peripheral Nerve Surgery Program
- Pituitary Center
- Stroke Center
- Vascular Malformations Clinic

How did you come up with these unique features?

FL: We created a special neuroscience advisory council made up of patients and family members, and included them in the building design and development process. Understanding their unique perspectives and hearing their ideas from the very start, before interior layouts were finalized, was a key factor in designing a patient-centered building and care experience.

GS: When the development of the Stanford Neuroscience Health Center was first being discussed, we talked about creating an environment that would not only provide comprehensive care in a single facility, but one that would be developed with a deep understanding of the special challenges faced by neurological patients.

All of these features are good for patients. How does this building benefit doctors?

FL: The Center brings together people who may have had some interaction before, but never experienced direct collaboration. This will be the first time we’ve gathered all these neurological fields together. I am sure that entirely new approaches to patient care will evolve because we have all of these disciplines together under one roof.

GS: One of the advantages of Stanford has always been the presence of people doing groundbreaking work in many fields. New ideas are born because we run into each other by accident. In this Center, it won’t be an accident.

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The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center
Combining advanced neurologic care with a caring environment
This past January, a new chapter in caring for patients with neurological disorders began as the Stanford Neuroscience Health Center opened its doors. This first-of-its-kind comprehensive care center brings together the three pillars of neurological care—neurology, neurosurgery and interventional neuroradiology—under one roof to transform how patients with neurological conditions or injuries such as brain tumors, movement disorders, brain aneurysms, spine deterioration, Parkinson’s disease, stroke and memory disorders are diagnosed, treated and cared for.
Sharing space in this 92,000 square foot, five-floor facility, are providers from 21 neuroscience subspecialties who now work side-by-side, sharing their expertise and information rapidly in a highly collaborative environment.

“One of the great advantages of having all these specialists in one place is that we can assume a multidisciplinary approach to the patient, not just in theory, but in reality,” said NHC Co-Leader Gary K. Steinberg, MD, PhD, the Bernard and Ronni Lacroute-William Randolph Hearst Professor in Neurosurgery and Neurosciences and professor and chair of neurosurgery. “Integrating outpatient services into one convenient location results in more accurate diagnoses, organized care, better quality of life and improved outcomes for the patient.”

To get it just right, Stanford chose to build the new center from the ground up, and it enlisted input from the very people who would spend their days within its walls—clinicians, researchers and patient and families.

“This building is the result of incredible collaboration of patients, architects, our physicians and other care team members who have helped to inform every aspect of the design to deliver the best possible experience for neuroscience patients and their families,” said Alison Kerr, Vice President, Neuroscience Service Line, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Operations at Stanford Health Care and one of the center’s project leaders.

The Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), a group of 12 patients who have been treated for neurological disorders, and their family members, were instrumental in guiding critical elements of the building integrity that help the patient journey. They informed decisions impacting both operational and design elements, including creating a single check-in for multiple appointments, larger exam rooms, wider doors and hallways, sturdier chairs and floors organized logically to reduce the distance patients must cover moving from place to place.

“The life of a neuroscience patient can be extremely difficult, and having a seat at the table to give a patient’s perspective on every detail from the flooring to the wall colors to the types of chairs is incredibly empowering,” said Paula Holwell, chair of the Stanford Neuroscience PFAC.

“We want our patients to come to our center and immediately recognize that it was designed to respond to their unique challenges in ways they have never seen in a care facility,” said the center’s co-leader Frank M. Longo, MD, PhD, the George and Lucy Becker Professor in Medicine and professor and chair of neurology and neurological sciences.

Beyond its patient-centered design, the new center offers patients access to advanced diagnostic techniques, the latest treatments and groundbreaking clinical trials, some of which are not available anywhere else in the world. The center also includes an Autonomic Lab with one of the first clinical care thermoregulatory sweat labs in the nation and the first dedicated clinical PET/MRI. It also houses a dedicated neurorehabilitation space with a balance lab, a kinematic lab, an outdoor mobility garden and a wellness center, and is home to an established NIH Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and a clinical trials research area.
Coordinated Imaging Services

All in One Location

For people living with neurological disorders like epilepsy and Alzheimer’s, it is common to undergo multiple tests to diagnosis and manage their condition. In reality this often means patients might undergo an MRI in one location on one day, and then subsequently be sent for a PET study on a different day in a different location, with long periods of waiting for results and follow-up appointments in between.

In the new Stanford Neuroscience Health Center on Quarry Road, all of those services are located under one roof. Patients can receive imaging studies on the ground floor of the 92,000-square-foot facility, and then head upstairs for clinic or rehabilitation appointments or to the procedure area or infusion suite. That means, parking once and checking in once for multiple appointments and tests.

“Almost every patient with a neurological disorder will need imaging,” said Max Wintermark, MD, professor of radiology and chief of neuroradiology. “The convenience factor of offering imaging in the same location where patients are seen in clinics cannot be underestimated. In the new center, we’re able to offer patients integrated, coordinated care that very practically reduces the amount of time they spend waiting.”

Combined Technology

The ground floor imaging suite brings together a full complement of modalities such as CT, Fluoroscopy, General Radiography and Ultrasound. “While the technology itself is not revolutionary,” said Wintermark, “Stanford has invested in the latest, most advanced equipment, which allows us to have higher image quality while administering lower doses of radiation to our patients.”

What is new in imaging is the addition of a Positron Emission Tomography/Magnetic Resonance Imaging (PET/MRI) machine for clinical use. PET/MRI produces images that are more accurate and detailed than in either technology alone, and with less radiation exposure than a PET/CT scan. It gives doctors simultaneous information about the brain in an incredibly precise manner, helping to improve overall diagnosis and treatment options, said Wintermark. The new technology will help assess a variety of disorders that require doctors...
to look at both anatomy and function of the brain, including epilepsy and seizures, memory disorders like Alzheimer’s and brain tumors. In the past, use of the PET/MRI was limited to a small number of patients involved in very specific research protocols. “Having a PET/MRI at the Neuroscience Health Center will make a big difference in the number and type of patients who are able to benefit from this advanced technology,” said Wintermark. “It will also stimulate research, and allow for much faster translation of new findings to the clinical side.” “Many of the new imaging strategies being developed in our Department are being translated into first-in-man studies, including studies for the PET/MR scanner,” said Sanjiv Sam Gambhir MD, PhD, chair of radiology. “This will help patients with neurological disorders receive state-of-art care for years to come.”

Neurorehabilitation
Helping patients maximize function

Unlike many medical conditions, where treatment often leads to cure, a neurologic disorder can require months or years of medical care and rehabilitation services. From the Wellness Center dance studio to the advanced gait testing, to the balance lab and outdoor mobility garden, the comprehensive Neurorehabilitation Services offered at the new Neuroscience Health Center have one collective goal in common: to help patients restore lost function and maximize mobility. Because each patient’s treatment path is different, the Stanford neuro rehabilitation team works together with doctors in a variety of specialties to develop therapy plans that help restore function, control movement and improve balance to prevent further injury. For patients with balance problems, a team at the Balance Center works together with experts in neurology, neuro-otology and rehabilitation medicine to diagnose the underlying causes of balance problems and develop a treatment plan. “The Balance Center at Stanford is unique in that it’s an interdisciplinary program, rather than a purely vestibular center,” said Helen Bronte-Stewart, MD, director of the Stanford Movement Disorders Center. The Balance Center shares the first floor with neuromuscular and movement disorder specialists in a strategic co-locating of services. “We’re excited to broaden our ability to work across disciplines in the new Neuroscience Health Center,” said Bronte-Stewart, the John E. Cahill Professor, Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences. “Here, we have everybody working together with these very complicated and sometimes rare disorders, especially those conditions that overlap between movement and neuromuscular disorders.”

Her colleague, Yuen So, MD, professor and chief, Neurology Clinics, specializes in treating complex patients, many with previously undiagnosed neuromuscular disorders. “What we are
Deep Brain Stimulation
Bringing relief to patients with movement disorders

For people who suffer from movement disorders like tremor and Parkinson’s, medication is typically the cornerstone of treatment. Medications, however, don’t work forever. When they fail, or when their side effects become problematic, a minimally invasive surgical approach—deep brain stimulation (DBS)—is bringing relief to people with movement disorders, psychiatric disorders, seizures and certain types of chronic pain.

DBS is helping many people regain the sense of control and predictability they lost with their disease. Typically, people with Parkinson’s disease who undergo DBS surgery at Stanford have a 60 to 90 percent improvement in their symptoms and a 60 to 100 percent reduction in medication use. The procedure is most effective for people who have responded well to medication, but whose ability to live their lives normally has been severely hampered by medication side effects.

“The success of treatment outcomes at Stanford relies on the expertise and experience of our movement disorders neurologists who program DBS devices and adjust medication accordingly,” said Dr. Helen Bronte-Stewart, chief of Stanford Movement Disorder programs.

To implant a DBS device, surgeons place an MRI-guided wire into a targeted brain structure. At the tip of that wire are four small electrodes that release electrical impulses to block tremor. The wires are connected to a two-inch by three-inch battery pack. That pack sits under the skin in the chest, just as...
cardiac pacemakers do. The surgery is done in the awake state, so surgeon and patient can see the effects of the procedure in real time.

Stanford’s Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Program, directed by Jaimie Henderson, MD, is leading the program’s expansion of DBS application. One of its members, Casey Halpern, MD, assistant professor of neurosurgery, has already been successful in treating patients with obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD) with a standard DBS device.

“If a millimeter-sized electrode can have such an incredible effect on a medical condition like tremor and Parkinson’s Disease,” Halpern said, “why couldn’t it do something so much different, but something just as effective, in a different part of the brain for a different brain-related medical condition?”

With that idea in mind, Halpern has turned his research to applying three kinds of brain stimulation devices to obesity, binge eating disorder and addiction.

“While frightened of the prospect of brain surgery at first, most patients come to find their experience transformative,” said Halpern. “They feel like they’re able to be a team member in their own medical care.”

“In a non-lesional, nondestructive way, DBS is able to transform these patient’s lives into what many would say is almost feeling completely normal,” said Halpern. “To be able to have that kind of effect on patients has been what inspires me every day to continue with this kind of specialty.”
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New Physicians
The Stanford Neuroscience Health Center is a comprehensive care destination for all neuroscience patients, delivering integrated and coordinated outpatient services in neurology, neurosurgery, and interventional neuroradiology. Our Stanford Medicine physicians see over 50,000 patients annually, and are available to work with you and your patients to offer specialized care. To refer patients, call: 650.723.6469.

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To lead in caring for people with neurological disorders and translating innovations into cures.