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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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 has received international recognition for clinical excellence, for pioneering new approaches to headache treatment, and for research on women’s issues, as well as clinical trials for the treatment of headache disorders. The United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties is expected to accredit our 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 Headache Medicine Fellowship Program focusing on outpatient management of headache, clinical research and medical writing. The fellowship is accredited by the United Council for Neurologic subspecialties (UCNS). 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 services include the Sleep Center (Dr. Mirena Pavlova), neuropsychology, anesthesiology and neuroradiology. Faculty for the headache center includes two headache medicine doctors (1 neurologist, 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.
2.0 Faculty

2.1 Neurology and Headache Medicine

Paul Rizzoli, MD  
Director, Graham Headache Center  
Director, Headache Medicine Fellowship  
Department of Neurology  
Brigham and Women’s/Faulkner Hospitals  
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 Women’s Neurology

Autumn Klein, MD, PhD

2.2.3 Pediatric Neurology and Headache Medicine

Navil Sethna, MD

2.2.4 Headache Research

Rami Burstein, PhD
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 Drs. Rizzoli, Loder and Bana, 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. Navil Sethna, the Director of the Pediatric Headache Service at Children’s Hospital. The Fellow will learn how to diagnose and manage pediatric headache disorders.

3.3 Liaison Headache Consultation

The Fellow will train with Dr. Klein 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.

3.5 Inpatient

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 multicenter randomized trials of various treatment interventions, 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. David Keith, 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

Applications can be made by sending a letter of interest, curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation to Paul Rizzoli, MD

Contact: Paul Rizzoli, MD at prizzoli@partners.org or by mail at 1153 Centre Street, Suite 4970, Boston, MA, 02130
7.0 Dates, Duration, Salary, Benefits and Funding Sources

7.1 Starting Date

July 1 of each calendar year.

7.2 Duration of Fellowship

One year. A second year may be offered to exceptional Fellows who wish to undertake or complete a research project. This is contingent upon successful completion of Year One, demonstration of research potential, and availability of funding.

7.3 Salary, Benefits and Funding Sources

Salary and benefits will be in line with the standard Partners Healthcare System’s scale for Fellows. Unless prior arrangements are made, vacation time may not be taken during the starting month of the Fellowship, or in more than one week increments.

A pager, lab coat, workstation, and clinical equipment/supplies will be provided during rotations as needed. The Headache Research Foundation of the Faulkner Hospital will provide salary support for Headache Fellows.
8.0 Faculty Biosketches for Selected Graham Headache Center-based Faculty

Elizabeth W. Loder, MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Chief, Division of Headache and Pain in the Department of Neurology at the Brigham and Women’s/Faulkner Hospitals. A headache clinician, researcher and clinical editor for the BMJ, she is the current Secretary of the American Headache Society and serves 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 two books, including Migraine in Women.

Paul Rizzoli, MD is a Clinical Instructor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Graham Headache Center. He is also the Director of the Headache Fellowship Program. A headache clinician and writer, he is active in the Headache Cooperative of New England and a member of the American Headache Society.

Dhirendra Bana, MD 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.

Autumn Klein, MD, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and chief of the Division of Women’s Neurology. She completed a fellowship in epilepsy, and has a longstanding interest in headache medicine.