Postgraduate Fellowship- Vascular Neurology Nurse Practitioner
Sample Program Sequence

I. Clinical Rotations
1. Inpatient Stroke Service for 34 weeks
   Shadow-2 weeks
   With Resident/Fellow- 2 weeks
   Independent with attending- 30 weeks

2. Outpatient Stroke Clinic for 8 weeks
   - Stroke Clinic at the San Diego VAMC is a referral clinic serving approximately 800 currently enrolled veterans who are either at risk for or recovering from stroke. Five to 8 new patients are seen each week and the range of disorders seen spans the gamut from routine stroke prevention to exotic causes of stroke in young patients.
   - Stroke Center physicians have weekly, or several times weekly, clinics at UCSD. Roughly 5 to 8 new patients per week are presented by each Fellow to one of the attendings.

3. Neuroradiology elective for 4 weeks

4. Interventional Vascular Neurology for 4 weeks

II. Stroke Code Call Responsibilities
   - Nurse Practitioner Fellows Will Be Expected To Participate in the Primary Stroke Code On-Call Pool for Acute Stroke Assessments at Participating San Diego Hospitals.
     - The Stroke Code system generates about 10 calls (Stroke Codes) per week among the participating sites. The fellows are generally the first neurologist to evaluate the patients. About 20% of the Stroke Code activations result in randomization of the patient into a clinical trial. For the first several months stroke center faculty will respond along with the fellows to all Codes at all sites (primary and affiliated); however, fellows eventually assume full responsibility with faculty back-up.
     - Fellows Will Initially Take Call in Conjunction With UCSD Neurology Stroke Fellows for the first 3- 6 Months of the fellowship year. Call Responsibilities for This Time Period Will Be Approximately Every Other Week. Fellows Will Always be Paired With Stroke Center Faculty For Backup/ Training/ Supervision.
     - Thereafter, Depending on The Fellows’ Progression, the NP Fellow Will Begin Taking Solo Primary On-Call Responsibility For the Remainder of the Training Period. Call Responsibilities for This Time Period Will Be
Approximately One Week Per Month. Fellows Will Always be Paired With Stroke Center Faculty For Backup/ Training/ Supervision.

- In addition to seeing clinic patients and Stroke Codes, the fellows are trained in clinical investigation. The primary goal of training in clinical investigation is to develop skills that enable a trainee to organize and participate in clinical investigations of new methods for stroke therapy.

- At any given time, the stroke center at UCSD is participating in a variety of multicenter clinical trials. These studies vary in their general objectives including primary or secondary prevention of stroke or acute treatment after the onset of ischemia. The fellows will be expected to assist in patient recruitment, conduct of the study, and compliance with all UCSD, FDA and NIH regulations to assure patient protection, privacy, and accuracy of the data.

III. Conferences & Meetings
Mandatory Attendance
- Clinical stroke code reviews-Weekly
  - Fellows report weekly to the Clinical Treatment Team meeting which is held on Thursdays at 12 p.m. in the UCSD Stroke Center Conference room. Each Code Stroke from the previous week is presented -- by the Fellow -- and all aspects of the case are discussed, including data acquisition, diagnostic assessment, decision-making, and outcomes. Note that this state-of-the-art conference room is equipped with 1.0 gbs Internet access, a PACS server, two 50-inch plasma screen displays, and seating for 12. We are able to access not only the UCSD PACS, but also the online Radiology server at our affiliated sites using secure log in and encrypted communication.
- Neurovascular Conference- Monthly
- Stroke Journal Club- Monthly
- Grand Rounds- Weekly
- Resident Stroke Case review- Monthly
- Meeting with Stroke Center Directors-Weekly
  - The Fellows meet for one hour each week with Dr. Lyden to discuss overall progress, and 2 hours each week with Dr. Zivin to discuss readings and other issues. Examples from the literature are provided to supplement texts.
- Research review with Senior Researcher- Weekly

*Elective meetings to be reviewed and approved by the NP Fellowship and Stroke Center Directors

IV. Professional Meetings
Mandatory Attendance
- International Stroke Conference- February of the Fellowship year

Elective Attendance
- San Diego Neurological Society-Monthly
- California Association of Nurse Practitioners-Monthly
- San Diego Stroke Consortium-Quarterly

V. Presentations

Nurse Practitioner Fellows will each be expected to develop and present 3 PowerPoint presentations during the Fellowship year for use in future training, speaking, and education. Presentations must reflect the following required topic:
- Stroke Prevention Strategies
- Acute Stroke Evaluation and Treatment
- Individual Lecture Topic: To Be Chosen by the NP Fellow from the Standardized UCSD Stroke Fellowship Didactic Lecture Series Syllabus.