



ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT PROPOSAL FORM

DIRECTIONS: *Use this form when proposing a new organizational unit, center, institute, department, school, or college.*

DATE OF REQUEST: 04/08/14

Date of AAC Approval:
April 28, 2014

INSTITUTION: University of Nevada School of Medicine/UNR

NAME OF PROPOSED UNIT: Department of Neurology

Date of Board Approval:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION: 07/01/14

PART 1

A. Action requested

Approval of formation of new clinical department in School of Medicine, to be based on the Reno campus.

B. Brief description and purpose of proposed unit

The purpose of the proposed unit is to develop a full clinical and academic Department of Neurology in the School of Medicine. Such a department does not now exist in either Reno or Las Vegas. Neurology is a major discipline of medicine for which there are substantial teaching and research needs and opportunities, and for which UNSOM students have career interests. We are currently lacking a formal structure within which to develop neurology teaching and clinical neurosciences research.

We propose to assimilate the current existing Renown Institute of Neurosciences with UNSOM as a new Department of Neurology. The Renown Institute consists of a closely affiliated group of neurologists, other neurology health care professionals and clinical neuroscientists with extensive prior academic experience in teaching and clinical/translational research. The Institute would be brought into UNSOM as a full Department of Neurology through clinical and administrative faculty appointments of all Institute personnel. The Institute of Neurosciences will continue to function as a unit of Renown Regional Medical Center, from which a significant majority of support will continue to flow, but the new Department of Neurology faculty members will receive small amounts of financial support to reflect their academic contributions. As part of creating a new department, we propose to name John Rockrock, M.D., the current director of the Renown Institute, as department chair. He and a senior member of the Institute are currently appointed as UNSOM faculty through letters of appointment, and the remainder of the staff physicians currently serve as adjunct faculty members.

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C. Outline plans for the success of the proposed unit

- The Institute of Neurosciences consists of nationally and internationally recognized faculty members with strong leadership credentials, a strong funding history, and early success in building a major clinical and clinical research enterprise.
- The Institute has developed a wide range of innovative clinical services, and has recruited clinicians and clinical staff memberst with a high level of expertise in several subspecialty areas of neurology, providing strong role models for the types of physicians and types of clinical practice models we wish to demonstrate to residents and students.
- The Institute has in place a wide range of clinical trials and other clinical research that offer a base from which UNSOM can develop a school-wide clinical research infrastructure and offer clinical research opportunities to students and residents. Dr. Rothrock and Dr. Lopez in particular can serve in important capacities as research mentors.
- The synergy between UNSOM resources and expertise in the neurosciences and the clinical neurology and clinical research expertise of Renown Health could provide the basis for a future M.D./Ph.D. program in clinical research.
- The Institute is proposing the creation of a memory and cognitive disorders clinic that could have significant synergy with the UNR Sanford Center on Aging.
- Incorporation of the Institute enhances several diversity missions of UNSOM.
- Successful integration of the Institute and creation of a Department of Neurology with integrated leadership (combined Institute Director and Department Chair) will serve as a model for other similar integration opportunities in other clinical departments

Components of a proposed work plan to accomplish the above follows:

1. Work closely with the appropriate medical education and basic science leaders to develop, for medical students, a pre-clinical course that provides students with a thorough understanding of the foundations of neuroscience and their clinical relevance.
2. Develop and implement, in collaboration with relevant members of the UNSOM administration, a clinical neurology clerkship (or required elective/selective) that provides medical students with a high-quality, broad exposure to the assessment and treatment of the most common neurologic disorders.
3. Work with representatives of the relevant clinical departments and residency program directors to establish neurology as a source of didactic and clinical training for interns, residents and other health professional trainees, including nursing students.
4. Utilize existing faculty members and recruit new clinical neuroscientists who will serve as mentors for students and postgraduate trainees who desire exposure to clinical/translational research involving the neurosciences.
5. Foster relationships with campus-based basic neuroscientists, and collaborate with them to develop new translational research projects.
6. Assist in promoting both effective patient management and a collegial working relationship among all clinical departments in the care of patients with neurologic disease.

PART II

A. Mission statement

The mission of the proposed Department of Neurology is to serve as the organizational and academic structure for developing high-quality teaching in clinical neurology and the neurosciences at the medical student, graduate student and resident level and to develop substantial clinical and translational research programs in collaborations with UNR and UNSOM neuroscientists.

B. Goals and objectives

i. Teaching

The Department of Neurology will fulfill a critical teaching role with UNSOM medical students and residents. With medical students, the Department will provide faculty leadership for directing the first and second year block curricula in neurology and neuroscience. In addition, the Department will provide leadership, faculty instruction/ supervision and clinical teaching sites in order to create clinical rotations in neurology for third and fourth year students. With residents, the Department of Neurology will supervise Internal Medicine and Psychiatry residents during rotations at neurology clinical sites. The Department will also contribute to resident teaching at didactic conferences for Internal Medicine and Psychiatry and morning report for residents on hospital wards. In the longer term, a goal of the Department of Neurology will be to create a neurology residency training program at Renown Medical Center. This initiative speaks directly to our overall strategy for expanding the specialty physician workforce in Northern Nevada, with neurology as a high priority in that strategic plan.

The Department of Neurology could also, if requested and as desired, provide teaching to graduate students in the Cognitive Brain Science program in the Department of Psychology and in the interdisciplinary Neuroscience major. This would be only to the extent desired by the leaders of those programs.

These objectives will be accomplished in part with the following programs:

1. Didactic lectures and presentations/demonstrations involving live or videotaped patients, to contribute to the medical students' basic neurosciences course as a component of clinical correlation to complement their "preclinical" coursework.
2. A clinical neurology clerkship (or required elective) that uniformly provides all medical students with a broad exposure to the common neurologic disorders via their participation in clinics, the in-patient consult service and scheduled conferences.
3. A similar clinical "clerkship" for trainees enrolled in UNR's nurse practitioner and (anticipated) physician assistant programs, as desired by the leaders of those programs.
4. A neurology elective for interns or residents from Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Family Medicine that provides those trainees with experience in diagnosing and managing common neurologic disorders.
4. A "fellowship" program for established nurse practitioners and physician assistants who wish to obtain additional clinical training in general neurology or one of the neurologic subspecialties, again, as desired by the leaders of those programs.
5. An accredited neurology residency training program involving 2 residents per year/6 residents in total.
6. A headache fellowship, accredited per the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties.
7. A stroke fellowship, accredited per the ACGME.

ii. Research

The Department of Neurology will expand its existing portfolio of clinical trials in neurologic diseases to include clinical and translational research programs in collaboration with UNR and UNSOM neuroscientists, including two currently-funded COBRE research programs in the neurosciences. The Department will develop a formal system wherein experienced and dedicated mentors are available to assist students and postgraduate trainees in gaining exposure to clinical/translational research involving the neurosciences and, specifically, to offer them opportunities for collaborative research and advice/instruction intended to facilitate independent research. The intent is to catalyze relationships developed with campus-based basic

neuroscientists to generate translational research, the volume and quality of which could lead to UNR becoming a nationally recognized center for clinical research in the neurosciences.

iii. Service

The Department of Neurology will continue to be based clinically at Renown Regional Medical Center as the Institute of Neurosciences including responsibility of the acute care stroke program, and neurology inpatient and outpatient consultations. The Department will provide 24/7 consultative inpatient care and timely outpatient evaluation and management as required by UNSOM's other clinical departments.

C. Major participants or collaborators

i. Internal to campus

All current clinical departments in UNSOM, COBRE neuroscientists and other collaborators in the basic science departments, research and clinical staff members in the Sanford Center on Aging with expertise in dementia, medical educators and educational leaders in the UNSOM Dean's office.

ii. External to campus

Renown Regional Medical Center physicians and private physicians in Reno, neuroscientists at the Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, academic and research partners in other medical schools and academic institutions across the country.

D. Evidence of contact within and between affected academic units

The Institute of Neurosciences is already providing substantial preclinical and clinical teaching for medical students, and clinical teaching for family medicine and internal medicine residents. Research collaborations among several COBRE neuroscientists at UNR and UNSOM are being explored. The Renown Institute for the Neurosciences currently provides virtually all of the consultative neurologic care generated by the UNSOM Internal Medicine service at Renown Regional Medical Center. Medical students and interns/residents from the Department of Internal Medicine now regularly participate in the neurology elective provided by the Institute. At any given time, 1 or 2 students and 1 or 2 postgraduate trainees are participating in the elective. Members of the Institute regularly conduct Internal Medicine morning report and noon conferences. On an ad hoc basis, members of the Institute participate in the medical students' preclinical basic neurosciences course and are invited speakers at Internal Medicine grand rounds. Medical students, interns and residents actively are participating in clinical research projects under the auspices of the Institute and its providers.

E. Proposed physical location

The administrative offices and clinics of the proposed department would be located within space currently occupied by the Renown Institute for the Neurosciences: 75 Pringle Way, Center for Advanced Medicine, Building C, Suite 401, Reno, NV 89502.

F. Proposed organizational structure (include organizational structure within the campus)

The Department of Neurology will be part of the organizational structure of UNSOM as for all clinical departments, including the leadership structure for chairs of clinical departments. The department chair and the faculty members would function within UNSOM as do all clinical department chairs and faculty physicians, including representation in department chair and clinical leadership groups, involvement in relevant medical education committees, and membership in appropriate faculty governance committees.

G. Activities to be sponsored (e.g. courses, seminars, research, and outreach) – indicate if courses or seminars will be offered through the proposed unit. Please specify if they will be offered for academic credit and applicable to a degree program. Give estimated enrollment.

As described above, including a wide range of pre-clinical and clinical courses for medical students, required and elective teaching experiences for residents, the development of a new neurology residency program, the development of new fellowships in headache and stroke care, and the creation of new clinical and translational research projects and collaborations. In total, these programs contribute to the education and training of a total of 280 medical students (70/year), 100+ residents and fellows, and a large number of practicing physicians, as well as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in research.

H. Resource Analysis – source of funds necessary for the proposed change (enrollment-generated state funds, reallocation of existing funds, grants, other state funds)

This proposal is based on the assimilation en bloc of the Institute of Neurosciences as the Department of Neurology at the Renown Regional Medical Center, as part of the current negotiations between UNSOM and Renown Health to create a full academic medical center in Reno. The Institute of Neurosciences will continue to function as a unit of Renown Regional Medical Center, from which a significant majority of support will continue to flow, but the new Department of Neurology faculty members will receive small amounts of financial support from state and UNSOM funds to reflect their academic contributions. The amount of required financial support is under discussion, but is likely in the range of \$300K/year. This amount would not be provided in full initially, and is dependent on budget enhancement requests being prepared for the upcoming 2015 state legislative session, to be submitted through NSHE administration. No UNR funds are requested for this initiative. Support of the proposed residency and fellowship training would be part of the larger academic medical center relationship with Renown Health and would not come from UNR or UNSOM.

I. Projected Budget – identify portions of costs which will require state resources, grants, gifts and/or contracts

The financial support described above will come from a combination of state support as part of the budget enhancement request described above, grants, gifts and clinical revenue.

Please attach any supporting documentation (i.e. support letters from community, industry).